Professional and Graduate Student Coordinating Committee

Minutes of October 13, 2016

Present: Audrey Treece, Architecture; Julia Phillips, Architecture; Natalie Rainer, Art; Joseph Fox, Business; Brian Kahler, Business; Ed Borbely, Engineering; Claire Fortenberry, Engineering; Elizabeth Walsh, Law; Linh Vuong, Medicine; Danielle Bristow, Social Work; Amanda Holmes, Social Work; Elaine Flynn, Arts & Sciences; Ian McNeely (ACE Fellow); Mary Campbell, Real Estate, ex officio; Alexandra Keane, Graduate Student Representative to Trustees, ex officio; Wei Zhu, Graduate Student Representative to Trustees, ex officio; Bryan Lenz, Recreation Center, ex officio; Alan Glass, Student Health Services, ex officio; Ashley Macrander, Graduate School, ex officio; William F. Tate, Dean of the Graduate School, Committee Chair.

Dean William F. Tate called the meeting to order on October 13, 2016 at 3:03pm, in The Graduate School Conference Room, Cupples II 221. Dean Tate welcomed everyone and invited those present to introduce themselves.

The committee considered and approved the minutes of the April 4, 2016 meeting of the Professional and Graduate Student Coordinating Committee.

Report of Committee Chair

Dean William Tate reported on a conversation he had with students in regards to unionization. He expressed his position as being one that will support students whether unionized or non-unionized. He also commended the Division of Student Affairs for their support of graduate and professional students.

Report of Assistant Dean Ashley Macrander

Ashley Macrander, the Assistant Dean for Graduate Student Affairs, gave a preview of the selection process for the Graduate Student Representatives to the Board of Trustees for the May 2017-May 2018 term. She requested the committee’s involvement in getting the word out about applications. The candidates must be full time and in residence during the term and must be in good academic standing. The two-step applications will be open from January 17 to February 14. The applications will be uploaded to WUSTL Box for the review of the committee. The committee will convene to review applications on March 1, 2017 and will conduct interviews for selected candidates on March 21, 2017. Dean Macrander also reported on three student groups that were recommended by the Graduate Professional Council for provisional status. Prior to the vote, she reviewed the requirements for becoming a University-wide student group. The Saudi Student’s Association of Washington University in St. Louis (SSAWU), Graduate Students with Children (GSWC), and The Saint Louis Neuroscience Outreach Consortium (STLNOC) were all approved by the committee for provisional status as well.

Report of Graduate Professional Council President

Amanda Holmes, Vice President of Academic and Professional Development for GPC, reported on behalf of Haley Dolosic, President of GPC. During GPC’s first meeting in September, there was a presentation about the parking plans during and following the East End construction, two
presentations by student groups seeking to be recognized as university-wide student groups, and committee meetings to discuss liaison positions to various centers and communities on campus. During the October meeting, the upcoming Presidential debate and its potential effects on student lives was discussed. The GPC pulled together a very successful watch party for the debate. It was so successful that students had to be turned away because the space had reached capacity. Lastly, she discussed initiatives that GPC will be implementing this year including a rotating mixer series as well as a cultural event grant. Future directions for the GPC will include a discussion with stakeholders in regard to unionization of graduate and professional students.

Report of Graduate Student Representatives to the Board of Trustees
Alexandra Keane and Wei Zhu reported on their presentation during the meeting of the Board of Trustees. The pair gave a two-minute presentation about a proposed Leadership and Social Entrepreneurship Institute for Graduate Students. They highlighted strengths such as the Institute’s ability to recruit top, transformative students, engage alumni, and potentially push Wash U to a higher tier. This presentation was very well received by the Board. Undergraduate students reported about student sentiments surrounding the Presidential Debate. Finally, Chancellor Wrighton’s annual report included discussion of the Presidential Debate, campus construction, a new 23.6 million dollar grant from the National Science Foundation for a new science and technology center, and highlights about numerous faculty honors.

Report of Associate Vice Chancellor for Real Estate
Mary Campbell reported on graduate student housing. The university is providing 979 graduate and professional students with rental housing, which is an increase from last year’s 906 students. She also reported on an apartment referral service that is being upgraded through attention from Public Affairs. It is designed to help students find rental housing. They are seeking to provide purposeful housing with an array of housing options to address unique needs of students. The incorporation of student gathering spaces into buildings that house graduate and professional students is forthcoming.

Report of Director of Student Health Services
Dr. Alan Glass reported on the Graduate Student Health and Wellness Orientation that occurred in August. Though no official assessment of the events has been administered, feedback stated that there were too many sessions. There was a broad representation from the various graduate and professional schools. The social event that followed the orientation was a resounding success.

New Business
Bryan Lenz reported on the new Recreation Center. There will be a dedication on Friday, October 28th, 2016 in the Field House. There will be prizes and giveaways! The doors will officially open for recreational use on Saturday, October 29th, 2016.

Dean Tate adjourned the meeting at 4:06pm.
Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda C. Holmes

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