

UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL

November 17, 2008

Minutes

PRESENT: Klomprens (GS), M. Chavez (CAS), M. Boyer (COGS), G. Burgett-Thrasher (MUS), R. Blom (CAS), J. Rowan (COM), K. Renn (ED), J. Lindquist (CAL), R. Campa (CANR), J. Winans (COGS), M. Horodynski (NUR), M. Kuykendall (Law), C. Radcliffe (EGR), D. Long (CNS), F. Rauscher (CAL), E. Outslay (BUS), L. Sordillo (CVM), M. Madan (COGS), S. Cendrowski (CNS)

GUESTS: J. Pivarnik (University Intellectual Integrity Officer), J. Briggs-Bunting (Journalism), L. Davenport (Journalism), I. Gray (VPRGS), T. Tomlinson (Bioethics), Tony Grubbs (Hispanic Cultural Studies)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved with revision.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of 10/27/08 were approved with amendment.

AGENDA

1. Remarks from the Chairperson. (Outslay)
 - a. UCAG – beginning the implementation of changes to governance. UGC moves from a “council” to a “committee”
 - b. Task Force on Academic Year Review needs a UGC Rep
2. Remarks from the Graduate School. (Klomprens)
 - a. NRC Assessment of Doctoral Program
 - i. Methodology report not out yet
 - ii. Data and ratings are scheduled to be released in “early January 2009”
3. Remarks from the COGS Representative. (Madan)
 - a. Research conference being scheduled for February 2009
4. Reports of the University Graduate Council Subcommittees.
 - a. **Curriculum and Program Review Committee**
 - b. **Academic Research Policy Subcommittee**
 - c. **Graduate Instruction, Employment, Mentoring Subcommittee**
 - i. See attached – Recommendation for summer RA appointments – goal: actively track graduate students involved in research over the summer
 - ii. MOTION
 - iii. KK – candidacy or continuation fee concern
 - iv. Radcliffe – may make this recommendation next meeting
 - v. D. Long – any concerns for students to outside agencies?

1. Paying by the hour- has no additional cost to a grant, e.g. a candidacy fee not required for hourly
 2. Candidacy fee is independent from this recommendation
 - vi. Sordillo – one concern – student is “hourly” not an RA – so what agreements are in place between student and MSU/advisor?
 - vii. M. Boyer – dissertation credits – how are these (really) viewed and counted/credited for faculty effort? Students sign-up as a way to count faculty effort
 - viii. E. Outsley – Why is this an important things to do? Status as an “RA” – to whom does it matter? To students – doing same work as an RA – not like other hourly students. Expectations are different.
 - ix. L. Sordillo – work > 20 hours! But not paid for 40 hours! So current process requires some “looseness” in the hourly employment system procedures.
 - x. Motion **approved**, Klomparens will pass along to Provost Wilcox
5. Ian Gray, VP Research and Graduate Studies
- a. Research infrastructure, Federal Compliance, how to help faculty be successful, and engaging graduate students
 - b. Flashpoints/frustrations:
 - i. Human Subject Protection
 - ii. Intellectual Property (now MSU Technologies)
 - iii. Contracts and Grants
 - iv. Space concerns
 - c. 95% of all MSU resources/funding is in the colleges under control of the Deans
 - d. MSU Technologies improving with an experienced and full-time staff, dealing with a backlog of 600 projects, developing a feedback loop for faculty interested in filing patents, speeding up the material transfer agreements
 - e. Dr. Estelle McGroarty heading up an Office of Research Development. MSU has one of the largest internal programs and one of the worst returns on that grant investment for external grants
 - i. 7% of faculty bring in 70% of the external funds
 - f. Also looking at bridge-funds, Arts & Humanities fund, limited submission programs.
 - g. Office of Research Facilitation – to help faculty write grants (Lori Hudson)
 - h. Export Control and Trade Sanctions (Ron Russell, Paul Hunt) – to keep MSU up-to-date on federal regulations
 - i. Center for Statistical Consulting also supported by Dr. Gray’s office. Are other “core” facilities, too, related to high-cost instrumentation
 - j. Contracts & Grants – very strong on post-award compliance
 - k. MSU has national accreditation for Human Research Protection and Animal Care (AALACS)
 - l. Human Subjects – MSU slow at response time, especially for exempt status proposals and other straight forward protocols. MSU working on education of faculty, IRB administrators and others. MSU is likely to be renewed for our AHRPP accreditation (paperwork is in).

- m. \$1.2 million annually invested in high performance computing (important for research with large databases)
 - n. Ernst & Young brought in to review MSU research enterprise. MSU – 9th of 11 in Big Ten (above Iowa and Indiana). Commercialization also decline at MSU. We need to expand research expenditures as these are also source of start-up funds. One growth area is corporate-sponsored and foundation-supported research. (MSU is last in Big Ten for both)
 - o. One area to review and benchmark is (broadly-defined) contracts and grants. CGA is very complex – multiple steps – Ian wants to know barriers to funding for corporate and foundation research. What is our reputation in private sector? We want to be balanced. We also don't want to accept research that does not fit University policies and values.
6. *Request to establish a **Master of Arts in Journalism Education** in the School of Journalism. (attached) – **APPROVED**
7. *Request to change the requirements in the **Doctor of Philosophy** degree in **Hispanic Cultural Studies** in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese as published on pages 208 and 209 of the 2007-2009 *Academic Programs* catalog. (attached) – **APPROVED**
8. *Request to declare a Moratorium on Admission to the **Master of Arts** degree in **Bioethics, Humanities and Society**. – **Approved**
9. Annual Report University Intellectual Integrity Officer, Dr. Jim Pivarnik
- a. Discussion with members. (Report provided)
 - b. Jim works with MSU's Research Integrity Council (established by Ian Gray and Kim Wilcox). Gail Dummer and Fred Rauscher are UGC reps on the Research Integrity Council
 - c. Jim is also working with UGC Academic Research Policy Subcommittee on revisions to the MSU Misconduct Procedures
10. Roundtable
- a. C. Radcliffe – any recent review of comps process related to potential conflict of interest with guidance committee chair running the exam? TOPIC FOR FUTURE.
 - i. J. Lindquist was interested, too
 - b. College of Law – 83% pass rate of Bar exam, 1% higher than the state average
 - c. S. Cendrowski – wants to be helpful to Ian related to Material Transfer Agreements
 - d. Madan – Research Conference planning still underway
11. Adjournment. (4:55 PM)