September 27, 2013

PRESENT: Emily Owen (for Amy Adkerson), Ashli-Brown-Johnson, Lori Bruce, Russell Carr, Tim Chamblee, PC Cinnella, Karen Coats, Frances Coleman, Lara Dodds, Steve Elder, Dana Franz, Dwight Hare, Jim West (for Julia Hodges), David Morse, Dan Reynolds, Scott Roberts, Peter Ryan, Juan Silva, Kirk Swortzel, Marian Montgomery (for Steve Taylor), Vemitra White, Forest Sparks, Joanne To

ABSENT: Tim Barnett, Beth Miller for David Lewis, Judy Schneider, Jerry Gilbert (excused), Jon Rezek, David Shaw

GUESTS: Hart Bailey, Yaroslav Koshka, Mark L. Lawrence

The September 27, 2013, meeting of the Graduate Council was called to order at 1:32 P.M. by Juan Silva, Chair. Minutes from the August 30, 2013, meeting were approved by voice vote following a motion by David Morse and a second by Vemitra White.

University Committee on Courses and Curricula (UCCC): Kirk Swortzel

Kirk Swortzel summarized the UCCC proposals to be considered by the Council before each was presented.

Master of Professional Accountancy (M.P.A.): Scott Roberts moved approval of the MPA program modification, and Lara Dodds seconded. The modification adds the phrase “or accounting” to the elective requirement. The motion passed unanimously. The requirement now reads: “Business Electives: Nine hours of graduate-level business or accounting courses are also required.”

M.S. in Kinesiology (Subcommittee—Dana Franz, chair; David Lewis; David Morse): The department made significant changes to the initial proposal following its approval by UCCC. Consequently, the department must repeat the approval process at the college and UCCC levels before Graduate Council can consider the modification. The discussion was tabled. Dana Franz said that Stanley Brown, department head, was notified and agreed to this procedure.

M.S. in Veterinary Medical Sciences (Subcommittee—David Lewis, chair; Russell Carr; Dan Reynolds): Hart Bailey and Mark Lawrence, representing the College of Veterinary Medicine, and Kirk Swortzel discussed the proposed modification. The proposal requires revision before it can be approved and was therefore tabled until the next meeting.

Ph.D. in Veterinary Medical Sciences (Subcommittee—David Lewis, chair; Russell Carr; Dan Reynolds): Mark Lawrence explained the program. It was pointed out that a letter of support from the computational biology group was needed. A decision was postponed until the letter is submitted with the proposal.

Ph.D. in Environmental Toxicology (Subcommittee—David Lewis, chair; Russell Carr; Dan Reynolds): Russell Carr explained the modification and moved its approval. The motion was seconded by Dan Reynolds and passed unanimously. The modification requires students to complete a minimum of 24 credit hours of coursework while fulfilling the 90-hour beyond the B.S. requirement. It was pointed out that the approval form needs signatures from the college.

Materials Certificate Program: Yaroslav Koshka was present to speak to this proposal. After discussion, Council concluded that this is a general certificate, not intended to be a graduate certificate program, and therefore does not need Graduate Council approval.
Graduate School Report:  Lori Bruce
Lori Bruce reported on graduate students and graduate faculty; updates in application and admission trends; graduate enrollment trends; and graduate assistantships.

The report also released updated information on the continuing and new Graduate Enhancement Programs.

- The submission deadline for a Graduate Recruitment Assistant Grants (GRAG) award is October 18, 2013.
- The Graduate School will sponsor the Ethical Conduct of Research Forum on Thursday, October 31, 3-4 PM, in Fowlkes Auditorium in the Union during Academic Integrity Week (October 28-November 1).
- The Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition for graduate students will take place November 5-7, in Fowlkes Auditorium, offering cash prizes in master’s and doctoral categories in four disciplines.
- Other new programs include the Faculty Mentor Training Program; the Financial Literacy Program; the Graduate Students Mentoring Honors College Undergraduate Students program; and the establishment of a Return on Investment (ROI) Committee, charged with reviewing OGS programs and their associated budgets and then assessing the return on the investment of each.
- The Preparing Future Faculty Program continues to provide valuable preparation for graduate students planning to teach at the collegiate level; 21 students were selected to participate in the 2013-2014 program.

A complete copy of Dr. Bruce’s report is attached.

Old Business:  None

Report from the Graduate Student Association:  Vemitra White

New Business:
Juan Silva stated that he had appointed two subcommittees.

- Review of Certificate Programs-Graduate Level: The task of this subcommittee is to review policy and guidelines for graduate certificate programs to see if they conflict with policy and will then report to Graduate Council. Members of the subcommittee are Dana Franz, Dwight Hare, Scott Roberts (chair), and Vemitra White.

- Review Ph.D. and M.S. Requirements: The subcommittee will study PhD and master’s requirements, identify any discrepancies, and make recommendations to Graduate Council, if needed. Members are Russell Carr, PC Cinnella, Lara Dodds, Dwight Hare, David Morse (chair), and Dan Reynolds.

Next Meeting:
Juan Silva reminded Council that the next meeting is scheduled for October 25, 2013, which is during Fall Break. Members voted to move the meeting date to November 1, 2013, to avoid the conflict.

The meeting was adjourned.