

Minutes of **University Graduate Council**

March 10, 2009

Present: Tim McDermott (AG), Rollin Beamish (A & A), Bonita Peterson (BUS), William Ruff (EHHD), Robert Maher (ENGR), Carl Fox (DGE), Robert Bennett (L&S-Letters), CHAIR Yves Idzerda (L&S-Science), Rita Cheek (NURS), David Keto (STUDENT).

Also attending were MaryKay West (DGE), Jen Jencso (DGE), and Donna Negaard (DGE).

Meeting commenced at 9:05 a.m. in 114 Sherrick.

Approval of Minutes

- For Nov. 6, 2008 – moved, seconded and **unanimously approved**.
- For Feb. 17, 2009 – moved, seconded and **unanimously approved**.

Open Campus Forum

- No one came forward.

Welcome

- The new Student Representative, David Keto, was welcomed by all members. He will be replacing Megan Selheim.

UGC Committee Reports

- No reports were given.

DGE Staff Reports

- DGE Open House
 - a) Tomorrow – to display 15 design submissions for new grad T shirt (will be for promotion only).
- Research Expo
 - a) To be held Tuesday, April 14
 - b) Abstracts from grad students were due yesterday
 - c) \$10,000 award for college with highest percent of grads who participate.
- Phone-a-thon
 - a) Contacting MSU grad alumni – like last year.
- Recruiting Weekend
 - a) To help put MSU on “radar” for students across nation
 - b) Face to face visits are very valuable
 - c) Ten departments in three colleges participated.

Update on Tuition Waivers and Policy Statement -- Carl

- a) Probably change name of "Grad Service Assistant"
- b) For AY 10, tuition waivers in dollars will be allocated to colleges in a manner similar to AY 08. Tuition waivers will not be tied to graduate assistantships.
- c) DGE and OPA are developing a data base to track GTA and GRA appointments
- d) A Graduate Tuition Task Force is working on the development of a new policy for AY 11.

Probation / Suspension Rules for GTAs and GRAs (continued) -- Donna

- a) Involves up to a dozen students per semester
- b) DGE needs guidance—does DGE give student a "grace" semester for first semester on probation? (especially if it is first semester in grad school); should a student be dismissed if they do not raise their GPA during the "grace" semester
- c) Dismissal rules must be included on Agreement form student signs
- d) Donna will draft language for UGC review.

Transfer Credit Policy -- Donna

- a) No motion was made at last meeting; Donna needs one to clarify DGE policy
- b) Rob motioned and Tim seconded that **the definition of transfer credits be revised to include credits from outside institutions, MSU non-degree, and MSU Reserved credits. Transfer credits will only be accepted to meet degree requirements if a grade of B or better has been achieved.**
Approved by unanimous vote.

Minimum Wage for GTAs and GRAs – Donna

- a) Current MSU minimum stipend of \$8.00 per hour was set when federal minimum wage was \$5.15 (federal minimum will become \$7.25 in July 2009)
- b) DGE is suggesting that we raise the minimum stipend
- c) Recommendation of the UGC is to return to this issue when the economy improves.

Comprehensive Exams – Donna

- a) MSU departments have little comp exam information on their websites
- b) DGE is contacting departments to have them clarify their definition of "comp exams"
- c) DGE is planning a review of the comprehensive exam requirements for each degree program.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50.

Next meeting is Tuesday, March 24

MaryKay West, Secretary