Joint Meeting of Graduate Council and Graduate Directors

September 28, 2011, 2:30 p.m.
McGregor Conference Center, Room F

Agenda

I. **Approval of Minutes:** April 20, 2011*

II. **New Business**

    A. Liaisons to Academic Senate Committees

    B. Rumble Fellowship Program Revisions*

    C. Plagiarism Check Policy for Dissertations/Theses*

    D. Conflict of Interest Policy*

III. **Old Business**

IV. **Adjournment**

* attachment

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**Minutes of the
Joint Meeting of Graduate Council and Graduate Directors**
September 28, 2011
2:30 p.m., McGregor Conference Center, Room F

Graduate Council
Members Present: M. Anderson, A. Biswas, L. Buis, A. Butler, A. Cano, J. Casida, C. Chow, M. Clark, M. Dickson, J. Dunbar, T. Edwards, K. English, A. Feig, J. Green, R. Holley, R. Hutson, K. Jackson, G. Mao, A. Mathur, J. Moldenhauer, B. Neavill, M. Neely, S. Ng, K. Paesani, R. Pauley, L. Schwiebert, M. Smoller, S. Terlecky, C. Winston, A. Yaprak, J. Yoon

Members Absent: J. Brandell, J. Davis, P. Dubinsky, S. Ilmer, A. Kowluru, M. Malek, A. Weisz

Also Present: C. Barduca, A. Hudson, L. Romano, C. Sokol, many Graduate Directors

The meeting was convened at 2:33 p.m. by the Chairperson, Dean Ratner. She asked new Council members and Graduate Directors to introduce themselves.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of April 20, 2011.

II. NEW BUSINESS

A.   LIAISONS TO THE ACADEMIC SENATE

Dean Ratner welcomed Lou Romano, who, as President of the Academic Senate, serves as its liaison to the Council and explained that the Council, in turn, sends liaisons to the Senate's Research and Curriculum and Instruction committees. She asked for volunteers to serve as these liaisons. She noted that Joe Dunbar, Associate Vice President/ Research, already serves as liaison from her office to the Research Committee and could also function in that capacity for the Graduate Council. She asked members to contact the Council Secretary to volunteer.

B.   RUMBLE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM REVISIONS

Dean Ratner provided the background and context for the revised Rumble Fellowship program. In May, a strategic planning retreat for graduate education was held, with representatives from the Graduate Council, Graduate Directors, Faculty Research Advisory Committee, Research Committee, deans and other groups. Discussion topics were solicited and six discussion groups were formed. Three general themes emerged: program visibility and quality, faculty and research, and the student experience. Each of these themes has relevance for both master's and doctoral programs, though how goals will be realized will differ. Common to all three themes were ideas involving improvement of information management and process management. Another topic emerging from the retreat was the need to re-examine the University Graduate Research

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Fellowship (UGRF) and its goals in relation to the goals of the Rumble Fellowship. A Doctoral Advisory Committee and a Master's Advisory Committee of Graduate Directors were formed, and both groups met early in the summer. The Doctoral Advisory Group continued to meet to address how best to revise the UGRF and Rumble programs. A proposal emerged from those meetings, and it has been discussed with the deans and the Executive Committee of Graduate Council.

She summarized the changes in the revised Rumble proposal, noting that major concerns had been raised about the cumbersome nature of the nomination and award process of the UGRF, although some of its goals were good. The proposal eliminates the UGRF, combines its funding with that of the Rumble, and allocates the Fellowships directly to departments without the need for a nomination and review process. Deans would have the opportunity to request a reallocation, based on strategic or academic reasons.

The old Rumble and the UGRF had been used as recruitment fellowships, and the UGRF was later used to encourage degree completion. In order to provide maximum flexibility and meet the needs of departments, the new Rumble may be awarded to students in three categories: recruitment, development of scholarship and research, and completion. Departments will decide which categories suit their needs. Expected outcomes that will help students succeed were established for each of the categories, and departments will be asked to report on their students' achievement of these outcomes.

Members discussed the revised Rumble proposal. The change in the nomination process was lauded. The new format will help provide data on what contributes to degree completion; data gathering will assure that changes in productivity are acknowledged. How often the allocations will be revised has not yet been determined. Ph.D. productivity, though not the sole criterion, was used as a basis for the allocations because it correlates with other success measures. Funding sources other than the UGRF and Rumble may have contributed to a department's Ph.D. productivity. A program that makes major changes to increase Ph.D. productivity should appeal to the college dean for recognition of the changes and consideration for an increase in their Rumble allocation. Evaluation of productivity over a longer period, such as five years, as the basis for allocations would help take into account such factors as program changes.

The role of the college dean in allocations is important: although the Graduate School makes the allocations, the dean is in a position to recommend changes based on his/her knowledge of the programs in the college. No Rumbles would be held back initially, but in the future, a pool could be withheld and awarded to address some of the issues raised in the discussion. Assigning a completion Rumble to a student is very chancy; if the student does not complete in a year, the department has failed to meet the completion criterion. Graduate Directors know their students and know which ones are likely to complete in the timeframe required; completion Rumbles are very useful in some situations. If no one uses completion Rumbles, the three-category structure can be reconsidered. The Rumble is aimed at increasing Ph.D. productivity but allows the college dean to request a change in allocation to an M.F.A. student; historically, the number of M.F.A.s receiving Rumbles was too small to impact Ph.D. productivity and to draw conclusions about M.F.A. productivity. Any Rumbles unused by the May 15 deadline will not revert to the Graduate School as the goal is to recruit the very best students. Exceptions to the deadline can be made.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. PLAGIARISM CHECK POLICY FOR DISSERTATIONS AND THESES

Dean Ratner explained that the proposal to make mandatory a plagiarism check for all dissertations and theses came from the Academic Standards Committee last year. It has been reviewed by the Executive Committee and was presented at a combined meeting of Graduate Council and Graduate Directors in April where a demonstration of the use of Safe Assign was presented by the Office for Teaching and Learning.

Members discussed the proposal. It was suggested that Turn It In is a better program than Safe Assign, but there were intellectual property issues associated with Turn It In at the time the University was considering a plagiarism check program, and Safe Assign was selected. Safe Assign is available through Black Board and is free, but any program may be used. The plagiarism check requirement will begin with the May 2012 graduation. The experience of departments using a plagiarism check is that once the policy is established, the plagiarism rate goes way down. The Graduate Director will be the one doing the check, and, once the process is in place, the workload of checking is not great. Training sessions for Graduate Directors will be established.

MOTION was made, seconded, and passed to approve the policy requiring a mandatory plagiarism check for dissertations and theses, beginning Winter Semester 2012.

Dean Ratner read into the minutes a statement recognizing Krista English for her service to the Graduate Council:

The members of the Graduate Council wish to honor and recognize the contributions and service of Krista English to the Graduate Council, on the occasion of her retirement from Wayne State University. Krista, we have benefited tremendously from your wisdom, thoughtful analysis and good counsel over the years. We will miss you, but wish you every success in the next phase of your life. If we were a sports team, we would retire your number, because there will truly never be another person who can replace you. Thank you.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista L. English

Krista L. English
Secretary of the Graduate Council