Minutes of the Graduate Council Meeting
April 13, 2007

Present: Karen Bell, Amy Cheng, Barbara Chorzempa, Laurel Garrick Duhaney, Dan Kempton, Gweneth Lloyd, Jan McLaurin, Bernadette Morris, Judy Rance-Roney, Jon Raskin

Excused Absences: Michael Guiry, Majid Hosseini

1. The minutes from the meeting of March 30 were approved with amendments.

2. Announcements
   a. Bernadette Morris announced that the first round of graduation clearances for master’s students has been completed. She also reported that she now copies the advisor and the Graduate Dean (silently) when a student has rectified a graduation deficiency.
   b. Laurel Garrick Duhaney reported that she had meet with the team of external reviewers for President Poskanzer’s 5-Year Evaluation.
   c. Laurel Garrick Duhaney offered an update on the Psychology Department’s program proposals and said that she had scheduled a meeting for 4/16 with Psychology and Education to discuss unresolved issues.
   d. A new course proposal, SPE750, Collaborative Strategies for Educators, was distributed for review and approval at the next Council meeting.
   e. The following minor course revisions have been approved:
      MUS521, Applied Music: Piano: course description changed for fall 2007 only.
      MUS522: course title changed from Applied Music: Piano to Applied Music: Voice; the course description changed for spring 2007 only.
      MUS523: course title changed from Applied Music: Piano to Applied Music: Miscellaneous; prerequisite changed from PI to PC; course description changed for summer 2007 only.

      Students must be enrolled at the graduate level to take these courses.

3. Old Business
   a. New course proposal for PSY576, Families in Transition, was unanimously approved.
   b. New course proposal SED5xx, Applied Linguistics for ESL Teachers II, was unanimously approved. The council requested that two changes be made: an update of the bibliography and the addition of material on the socio-cultural dimension of language transition.
   c. Jon Raskin reported that he submitted a summary of the council’s remarks to the team of external reviewers for President Poskanzer’s 5-Year Evaluation.
The discussion of old business was suspended at this point with the arrival of Beth Vargas and Vika Shock.

4. New Business
   a. Beth Vargas reported on international graduate student issues. She noted that international students represent a significant percentage of the graduate student body, especially in such programs as Computer Science, Business, and Art. She described the orientation program for international graduate students and passed out a sheet with the preliminary schedule for fall 2007 orientation. Later there was discussion of the expense of the orientation sessions to the students, and the council offered the suggestion that a basic orientation be offered without cost (refreshments funded by Major Connections).

   There was a lengthy discussion of the TOEFL exam, the upshot of which was that the Graduate School would set a minimum acceptable score (or perhaps scores, with some variation among departments) and require applicants to take the exam in their home countries before coming to the United States.

   The Council strongly endorsed a proposal that graduate student housing should be provided by the College and that this housing should take the form of apartments (not dorm rooms), which would provide cooking facilities and accommodate either individual students and/or families.

   Beth Vargas announced that the International Culture Fair would be held on May 8.

   b. Vika Shock did not have time to deliver an update about Banner.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50.

Submitted by Dan Kempton