Minutes — Thursday, April 12, 2017, 3:00 p.m.
Academic Affairs Conference Room WAB 227

Members Present: Leyla Zhuhadar, Kirk Atkinson, Alex Lebedinsky, Carl Myers, Justavian Tillman, Chris Groves, Dominic Lanphier, Mercy Ebuetse, Eric Reed, Wes Berry, Ann Ferrell, Allie Crume, Amy Cappiccie, Laurie Branstetter, Richard Dressler, Kristie Guffey, Merrall Price, Kristin Wilson

Members Absent: Towhid Mahmood, Martha Day, Carl Dick, Clarissa Lightsy, Molly Kerby, Gabrielle Bradley, Scott Lyons, Divya Gangavelli

Guests: Sylvia Gaiko, Laura Burchfield, Colette Chelf

1. Call to Order *Wilson

2. Consideration of February 8, 2018 minutes (Appendix A) *Atkinson/Berry makes a motion to approve. A friendly amendment is made to move Laurie Branstetter from absent to present. Minutes are approved with one change.

3. Graduate Enrollment Report (Appendix B: Week 8) *Dr. Zhuhadar asked which countries we lost international students from. Wilson said she would ask Dr. Gordon to run the report.

4. Committee Reports

   a. Policy Committee *Wilson is standing in for a policy issue regarding the Graduate Council Guidelines. The guidelines state we will elect representatives from six academic colleges and appoint one senator who will serve as a voting member. This is a total of 25 voting members. There are two issues including the number of members and the number of colleges. Let us set aside the bylaws and determine what to do instead of the bylaws. The executive committee suggested we elected five new members from the five remaining academic colleges. Wilson has asked if we can keep Kristi Guffey as an at large member next year for a year. She would represent the people who are losing some representation on Graduate Council. Wilson entertains a motion to suspend the bylaws regarding membership and voting. Atkinson/Ferrell; approved. The solution would be to elect five new members from the five remaining college and add Kristie Guffey as an at large member. Wilson entertains a motion to go with that suggestion. Zhuhadar/Berry; approved. The ongoing issue is our guidelines and the senate charter guidelines. They will try and get it sorted out next year. Wilson’s recommendation is to not repeat the guidelines in two policy documents. Having unique items should be unique from the senate charter. This will prevent having to change two documents. Next year we will make changes to senate charter and eliminate the sections from the graduate council guidelines. Reed makes a note to
consider membership. Wilson said the idea would be to revise the senate charter guidelines for membership according to how we want to do it. It would need to be decided next year. It opens up our guidelines to do it proportionately by the number of graduate programs, how many people we want in the group, and if the current size is to big/small.

b. Curriculum Committee (Appendix C) *Atkinson makes a motion to approve appendix C. A common thing that comes through curriculum is learning objectives. Atkinson requests the graduate council members take that back to their colleges. He suggested they be more action oriented. The curriculum as presented is approved. *Atkinson mentioned several programs trying to submit stuff right after the deadline. These late requests were denied. Please make sure your college is submitting them on time.

c. Student Research Grants Committee *Wilson sent out the report about an hour ago. *Berry said they used most of the $100,000 that was budgeted. *Zhuhadar asked about some of the applications that were the same from the past. Berry explained that some of the students initially applied for $2,000 and then the bar was raised to $3,000. The students resubmitted their applications to get the additional $1,000. Zhuhadar thinks information should be available on the website for future reference. *Webb suggested the first deadline should be bumped back two weeks. Reed suggested the deadline is to catch people who missed the previous deadline. Wilson offered to initiate an email regarding this suggestion.

5. Report from Dean of the Graduate School (away at a conference) *No report

6. Public Comments *Reed commented that he would like to see Atkinson as the Senate Chair. Reed thinks that Graduate affairs have had the short end of the stick in so many ways because there is not a voice at the table. It would give the chair access to other types of strategic bodies. Atkinson said his plea was heard and is being considered. Wilson said the provost has been very open to meeting with her and Carl. With that said, it does not seem to have gained us any ground. We have been hammered when it comes to funding and losses to staff lines.

7. Announcements & Adjourn *Wilson announced that the Graduate Council elections are going on right now. In May we need to be thinking about leadership for next year. Carl Dick will be the chair and there will need to be a vice chair. According to the guidelines the committee chairs are elected in the first committee meeting. Please let Wilson know if anyone has any interest in chairing the committees. Atkinson commented the electronic system has smoothed things out with the curriculum. *Wilson talked about the Policy Committee not being a standing committee. The committee could be enacted when they have a policy concern. It could be taken care of early next year to resolve the senate charter problem. It could also just be taken care of through the graduate executive committee. *Wilson encourages everyone to go to the open forums for the Provost candidates. There are anonymous forms that can be filled out online.