# Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

CHAIRED BY: Donna White TIME: 3:00pm

DATE: March 30, 2015 PLACE: SMBB 3250

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Connie Bullis, Chuck Hansen, Susan Johnston, Laura Kessler, Robert Mayer, Valeria Molinero, Ginny Pepper, Ryan Smith, Linda St. Clair, Mary Jane Taylor, Bryan Trump

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Yuanyuan Xie

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Ed Barbanell, Abigail Ririe, Donna White

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Krishnan Anand, Robert Baldwin, Tim Formosa, Tim Garrett, Nyce Keiyoro, Sean Redmond, Vanessa Stevens, Elham Yazdani

FINAL AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions

Associate Dean Donna White welcomed the Graduate Council to the sixth meeting of the 2014-15 academic year, and she introduced Linda St. Clair, who is serving on the Council for the Library.

**2. Program Review: Middle East Studies Program**

Susan Johnston from the Graduate Council presented the Middle East Studies program review.

Vote: Approved

Abstained: Mary Jane Taylor

Comments: Amendment: Recommendation 1 – “strategic planning and future vision for the MESP [insert] *including, but not limited to the Graduate Degree Program*.”

**3. Proposal: College of Health Re-alignment**

David Perrin, Dean of the College of Health, presented a proposal to re-align the College of Health.

Vote: Approved Unanimously

Abstained:

Comments: The re-alignment is less concerned with maintaining equal numbers of faculty and students, and more concerned with aligning departments in the most functional and logical way. Each department has equal voice on the college council. The college is looking at partnering with SBS and School of Medicine for faculty resources. They are transitioning to a suite for student advising and success in the HPER complex to centralize advising. Graduate Student advising will be handled by advisors in the departments. There will be a DoGS for each department.

**4. CIB (Center Institute and Bureau) discussion and Policy 6-001**

The Council discussed Policy 6-001 with Robert Flores (College of Law) via a conference call. Prior to the call Associate Dean Donna White shared that the policy will most likely be going to the Executive Committee of the Senate in summer 2015. The guidance document will be used to flesh out the gaps in policy 6-001 and serve as a procedure for the policy. The Council generated several questions before speaking with Bob.

Connie Bullis: It appears that the cognizant vice president is involved at the start at the process, but this individual seems to be absent from the end of the process.

Laura Kessler: What does it mean when a proposal has passed through the Graduate Council? What is the role or authority of the Council in the approval process?

Robert Flores: This policy provides the basic structure for how the University is organized. It also lays out the fundamentals of the process for establishing new academic units, reviewing these units, and discontinuing units when necessary. Academic units are considered in a very broad sense (including centers, institutes, and bureaus).

The flowchart and process outlined in the policy will be clarified to show the review of the cognizant VP both at the beginning and the end of the approval process.

Ultimately it is the President who approves new units, acting in the best interest of the university. The role of the Council is to be sure a complete proposal moves forward and to offer their recommendation for approval. Ginny Pepper said that the Council does have a role in looking at what is in the best interest of the university. Laura Kessler requested that the role of the Graduate Council be very clear and straight-forward in the policy.

Dean David Kieda would like to add provisional approvals to the agenda of the Graduate Council as information items.

Donna White requested that Bob show the draft of 6-001 to the CIB directors (a list Abi Ririe can provide) in order to obtain input of stake-holders before the document goes to the Senate.

Time of Adjournment 5:04pm.

The next Council meeting will be held 27 April 2015 at 3:00pm in the Winder Board Room, Park 300.