

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL FOR GRADUATE STUDIES

MINUTES, Meeting 401

May 6, 2011

2:00 p.m., 177B Administration Building

PRESENT: L. Bennett (CAS), J. Phillips (ENGL), J. Berman (PSYC), W. Rushing (SOCL), J. Dhaliwal (FCBE), D. Sherrell (MKTG), M. Logan (CCFA), J. Page (MUSIC), E. Rakow (COE), K. Meyer (LEAD), L. Weiss (HSS), D. Hochstein (ENGR), A. Curry (BIOMED ENGR), J. Thomas (NURSING), D. Irwin (UNV. COLLEGE), K. Ward (SPH), B. Park (Library), L. Pivnick (Faculty Senate), K. Weddle-West (Graduate School), J. Brownlee (Graduate School),

ABSENT: G. Emmert (CHEM), S. Utt (JOUR), R. Meier (CIVIL), D. Wark (AUSP), A. Mount (GSA), T. Woodman (Graduate School)

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K. Weddle-West opened the meeting at 2:03 p.m. when a quorum was attained.

**401.1 - Approval of minutes from meeting #400:** L. Bennett moved (2/ E. Rakow) to approve the minutes from meeting #400, held on May 6, 2011. The motion was passed by voice vote.

401.2 Announcements:

**401.2.1 - Introduction of new members:** K. Weddle-West welcomed all newly elected members to the University Council of Graduate Studies. **401.2.2 - National Research Council Fellowship Information:** K. Weddle-West asked that all council members please review this information and distribute it to their students. **401.2.3 - Jacqueline Reid, Research Support Services:** Ms. Reid had to reschedule her visit to the UCGS, as flooding prevented her from traveling to the University of Memphis campus. She will return to address the council at the next meeting in September. K. Weddle-West noted that if a project has already been approved it will not be retroactively cancelled. Going forward it is important to be aware of the new policies, which are posted online. Contact K. Weddle-West with any problems. **401.2.4 - Graduate Education Week review of events:** K. Weddle-West informed the council that all of the events for Graduate Education Week went very well this year. The student Research Forum was a "big success," with more students participating than ever before. K. Weddle-West thanked all of the judges for their time and effort in helping make this event successful. Next a brief overview of the annual trip to Legislative Plaza on Capitol Hill in Nashville, Tennessee was provided. Felynnia Rainey, a Ph.D. candidate in biomedical engineering and recipient of a Graduate School Fellowship, represented the University of Memphis this year. She presented her research on the "Automated Flow Analytical System for Analysis of Microliter Volumes," which is aimed at the development of an automated system for the point-of-care detection of chemical markers of heart attacks. In addition to the poster presentations, all of the attending graduate students and Deans were recognized by the Senate Education Committee. The chair of this committee, Senator Delores Gresham, invited K. Weddle-West to address the group at the beginning of this meeting. K. Weddle-West noted that we are looking forward to returning to the

Legislative Plaza next year and hope to get even more opportunities to meet and lobby legislators. **401.2.5 - Teaching Effectiveness Workshop for Graduate Teaching Assistants - Wednesday**, August 24, 2011 (8:00 - 12:00) in the Rose Theatre Entertainment Lobby: K. Weddle-West noted that the electronic handout for this event was sent to the council members before all of the other meeting materials. She urged the members to distribute the handout to all graduate assistants as soon as possible. **401.2.6 - New Graduate Student Orientation - Thursday**, August 25, 2011 – 9:30 - 12:45 – in the Rose Theatre (lunch begins at 12:45 p.m.): K. Weddle-West provided a brief overview of the New Graduate Student Orientation program, noting that the event is tentatively scheduled for August 25th, 2011.

#### 401.3 Discussion Items:

**401.3.1 - Accelerated Bachelors' and Masters Degrees:** K. Weddle-West provided the council members with a powerpoint presentation on this topic from Kennesaw University. Similarly to the University of Memphis, Kennesaw operates within a regents system. Their powerpoint presentation touches on many topics that are applicable to the University of Memphis. Institutions currently offering ABM programs have found that they are wonderful recruiting tools and great image enhancers. Offering ABM programs could also be part of a good strategy to boost enrollment. M. Logan moved (2/ J. Dhaliwal) to explore ABM degrees, determine if faculty are interested, and which programs are suitable. The motion was approved by voice vote. Therefore, the council will discuss this issue further next year. **401.3.2 - Enrollment update/TBR formula funding graduation rates:** K. Weddle-West reviewed a power point presentation on TBR's new funding formula, explaining how the changes will impact the University of Memphis. As a result of the changes made to the TBR funding formula the University of Memphis is now the only TBR institution with a high activity Carnegie classification. K. Weddle-West noted that the graduate certificate programs are not included in this set of data. They will be included in the next set of data as more than fifty students have graduated from these certificate programs. She also commended the council members and their staff for their hard work that contributed to getting more students graduated. J. Berman pointed out that the financial return figures are dependent on how the other TBR institutions perform. E. Rakow explained that even though these numbers are relative, if we start following the new formula it *will* work to our advantage.

#### 401.4 Old Business:

**401.4.1 - Spreadsheet with data on Students enrolled in Dissertation hours classified as out-of-state for tuition paying purposes. Vote on fee change policy to allow students enrolled in dissertation hours only to pay tuition at in-state rates:** K. Weddle-West provided a brief summary of this issue, informing the council that one credit hour costs in-state students roughly \$460.00, while out-of-state students pay roughly \$1,000.00. She reminded the council that we do not want cost to prohibit students from pursuing a degree or returning to school. Students are more likely to stay continuously enrolled when paying the in-state rate as opposed to the out-of-state rate. The ability to pay only \$460.00 instead of \$1,000.00 also attracts students who are not currently enrolled and want or need to finish earning a degree. After reviewing the data provided in the spread sheet handout, K. Weddle-West explained that

only about twenty students actually pay the out-of-state rate. Therefore K Weddle-West advocates allowing dissertation students to pay in-state fee rates. L. Bennett moved (2/ E. Rakow) to allow all students enrolled in dissertation credit hours only will pay the in-state tuition rate. The motion was carried by voice vote.

#### 401.5 New Business:

**401.5.1 - Final reminder to about revised GRE scores & Personal Potential Index (PPI), and need to revise websites & deadlines:** K. Weddle-West reminded the council of the August 2011 release of the revised GRE test and scoring system, noting that the new scores will not be available until this November or December. We have worked diligently to inform all students, faculty, and staff about the various aspects of the revised GRE in order to make sure everyone is aware of the upcoming changes. K. Weddle-West also reminded the council that all departments need to update their individual websites to reflect changes made to the GRE, especially language regarding scores. M. Kyle is responsible for updating all GRE score language in the Graduate Catalog. K. Weddle-West stated that admission deadlines can be changed if necessary in order to accommodate the receipt of new scores. She also provided a brief review of the new Personal Potential Index (PPI), requesting that council members mention the idea of using the PPI to their faculty members. The PPI has the potential to provide faculty with a better, more complete opinion of a student The PPI is a simple, easy to use evaluation method that is available for free. **401.5.2 - New GRE scores:** The new range of GRE scores is 130-170 (old range = 400-800). K. Weddle-West noted that percentiles will be available on the score report. It is best to focus on these percentiles rather than hard cut-offs. K. Weddle-West informed the council that were are currently trying to determine a way to make banner communicate with score reports. A new system is needed due to the inefficiencies of the current system of entering scores into banner by hand. **401.5.3 - National Research Council's Assessment of Doctoral Programs - Final Revised Report:** The final version of the NRC Assessment of Doctoral Programs Report was just released. E. Rakow explained how this final version of the report differs from the original report published in November 2010. Our r-rankings improved for some of our programs, particularly in the 5<sup>th</sup> percentile. The s-rankings more or less stayed the same. Overall, most of our programs rankings did not change very much.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mary Kyle.