Graduate Council  
September 4, 2014

Present: Professors Ankenmann, Campo, Cowles, Creekmur, Denry, Duff, Kristof-Brown, Moore, Moorhead, Quelle, Stanier; Graduate Students Gavin-Bigsby, Hamerlinck, Lucas, Winn; Deans Berkowitz, Keller, Wurster; Staff Arbisi-Kelm, Crooks, Schott

Absent: Professors Martin-Estudillo, Murry; Dean Gardinier; Staff Teitle

1. Welcome & introductions

2. The minutes of the August 28, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved.

3. Announcements and updates of summer activities:
   - GSS President Hamerlinck announced the first GSS meeting of the semester would be held on Tuesday, September 9, at 6:00 pm in room 2520D University Capitol Centre

4. Senior Associate Dean Wurster presented a proposal to close the dual degree with the School of Library Science and the Masters of Business Administration. As indicated in the letters of support, there have been no applicants or graduates in over a decade. Keeping the program relevant for students would require a major investment of resources. The lack of interest does not justify this investment. A motion to approve the proposal was made and passed unanimously.

5. Associate Dean Berkowitz presented a proposal to require a public abstract at the time of final deposit for Masters and PhD theses. The public abstract would be in addition to the technical abstract that may be part of the deposit package. The goal of the public abstract is to describe the dissertation work in terms that are understandable and compelling to the lay public. It would avoid domain-specific jargon, and relate the work wherever possible to content that is relevant to the public sphere. There are both process and outcome advantages for including the public abstract to the final thesis deposit, with benefits for the student, the program, the Graduate College and the University. Associate Dean Berkowitz thanked Council members Hamerlinck, Campo, Moore, and Lucas for their work over the summer to draft text necessary for inclusion in the Manual of Rules and Regulations of the Graduate College. Discussion of the need for a public abstract was favorable. Suggestions regarding changes to the manual text were made. Associate Dean Berkowitz will circulate revised text via email for Graduate Council approval.

6. Dean Keller provided an overview of proposed fellowship funding restructuring. The goals used in the restructuring process were promotion of student success, support of more students at modest levels, provision of incentives for academic progress, and a reduction in teaching commitments (working toward a 5-year funding plan.) Restructuring would result in changes to all existing fellowships, the creation of new fellowships, and increased funding for GSS travel awards. Discussion regarding the recruitment needs of departments and the judicious use of limited Graduate College resources followed. Revised proposals will be presented at future meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.