GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING
October 18, 2007
3:00pm, MU Boardroom

Present: Professors Colwell, Fisk, Francis, Gitelman, Grosskopf, Harter, King, Kioussi, McLain, & Russ-Eft

Absent: Professor Wolpert, Mary Strickroth

Guests: Ryan Readdy, Angelicque White and their guests; Aaron Wolf, Lynette de Silva, Roger Nielsen, Sherman Bloomer

Award Reception

An award reception was held in honor of Ryan Tucker Readdy, winner of the Hebert F. Frolander Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award, and Angelicque White, winner of the OSU Distinguished Dissertation Award and nominee for the Council of Graduate Schools/University Microfilms International Distinguished Dissertation Award competition.

Graduate Council Minutes for October 4, 2007

The minutes from the October 4, 2007 Graduate Council meeting were approved as amended.

OLD BUSINESS: Task Force on the Post Doctoral Experience

Tom McLain (Forestry) informed the Council that Barbara Bond and Theo Dreher were appointed to the President's Task Force on the Post Doctoral Experience as Graduate Council representatives. Both Drs. Bond and Dreher are former members of the Graduate Council.

T. McLain also announced that Alix Gitelman has returned to the Graduate Council this fall, representing the College of Science. Dreher had served in Gitelman's place while she was on sabbatical Spring 2007.

Follow up Review of the Computer Science Graduate Program

Standing in for Barbara Bond who was chair of the original review and of this follow-up review, Martin Fisk (Graduate School) presented the report of the Computer Science
Graduate Council Program Review follow-up. The original graduate program review took place in March, 2004. Both M. Fisk and Barbara Bond revisited the school on September 13, 2007. They met with the Director and Associate Director of the School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science: Terri Fiez and Bella Bose. M. Fisk reported briefly on the progress the Computer Science program has made toward the eight major recommendations made in the original review report.

A. Gitelman asked for more information on the recruitment of OSU undergraduates to the Computer Science program. She asked if OSU undergraduates are recruited because they are the best applicants or because they are more likely to matriculate. M. Fisk could not offer an answer as that topic was not explored in detail during the meeting, however, other Council members suggested two possible justifications for recruiting OSU students: the competitive nature of Computer Science (CS) programs in general, and the high cost of a national recruitment effort. It was suggested that this practice is characteristic of a new program or a program experiencing a lot of competition. Rick Colwell (COAS) asked Council members if it is common practice within their respective units to recruit graduate students internally. All Council members present responded that it is not.

T. McLain asked for clarification on the new process of funding Teaching Assistantship (TA) appointments by research group. He also wondered whether TAs with specific skills are being placed in complimentary CS courses and if the unit’s undergraduate instructional needs are being met with this new system in place. M. Fisk could not address those questions. M. Fisk and the Council did have additional conversation on the topic of the funding of CS students, including discussion on the department’s move to a more timely TA appointment notification system, the move toward funding PhD students before Master’s students, and the raising of Teaching Assistantship stipends.

Discussion was also held regarding the placement of CS graduates. As in the past, most graduates of the Program continue to find industry jobs. M. Fisk also reported that the department has lost faculty members to industry, however, the Program has raised the total number of faculty to 18 after having hired three new faculty members.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Computer Science Follow-up Review Report. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

Policy for admitting students with 3-year foreign degrees

Graduate Schools in the United States are increasingly receptive to admitting at least some of the applicants with 3-year European degrees. Several universities say they accept such degrees. A minority will not accept applicants from European universities unless they complete four or more years of university education. Oregon State University has fallen into the middle ground of insisting on the equivalent of a four-year accredited U.S. university, but relying on various guides, plus information from OSU programs, to determine which applicants meet this equivalency standard.
T. McLain informed the Council that this topic has been on the Graduate Council agenda each year that he has been a member and he feels that it is important to learn how the European Union’s movement to 3-year undergraduate degrees will affect OSU’s graduate admissions policies. He said that the Council might want to express an opinion on how the Graduate Admissions Committee (GAC) should handle applications from students with 3-year degrees. He added that it is the Graduate Council’s purview to advise the GAC and to modify admissions policies.

M. Fisk then provided the Council members with an overview of the EU decision – and information on how these applications are currently handled at OSU.

T. McLain suggested that we could encourage more applicants from Europe if the language in the OSU catalog is modified to indicate that 3-year degrees are considered on a case by case basis. Sally Francis (Graduate School) agreed that modifying the catalog language would be effective but it would represent a marketing change only. If the Council wants to effect a policy change, the members could decide, for example, that OSU will accept 3-year Bologna degrees only (3-year degrees from other countries would continue to be inadmissible). After additional discussion T. McLain summarized that Council members agreed to ask M. Fisk to perform additional research to learn the admissions policies of OSU’s peer institutions and other select universities and to examine the language in their catalogs for the purpose of possible adoption/adaptation.

**Category I Proposal for a Graduate Certificate in Water Conflict Management and Transformation**

Professors Lynette de Silva and Aaron Wolf gave a short presentation describing the proposed graduate certificate program in Water Conflict Management and Transformation and offered the Council rationale for offering this program at OSU at the present time. Dean Sherman Bloomer offered his college’s strong support of the new program. He indicated that there is great national demand for a program in water conflict management and that OSU is uniquely positioned to offer it.

T. McLain asked for clarification on program leadership and the admission process. L. de Silva answered that the graduate certificate would be housed in the Geosciences department and that she would oversee the running of the Program. A. Wolf responded that an admissions committee has not been established. S. Francis mentioned that graduate certificate programs are few and that she doubts that OSU units offering them have formal admissions committees, although she added that one might want to examine how the College of Forestry manages the Sustainable Natural Resources graduate certificate program. L. de Silva told the Council that the certificate program holds the same admissions requirements as the water resources graduate degree programs.

Additional discussion was held concerning:
• Minor vs. Certificate – both are transcript visible

• Percentage of Graduate standalone courses – certificates also held to the 50% rule

• Introduction to policy courses already over utilized by other management programs. Will this limit the number of certificate students?

• E-campus – the design of creative and effective e-courses and the resources resulting from those courses

The Graduate Council members agreed that it is necessary to return the CAT I proposal creating a Graduate Certificate in Water Conflict Management to Geosciences asking for clarification on the following two concerns:

1) How will the Graduate Certificate accommodate the 50% rule? Note that in the section of the Graduate Catalog on certificates it states: "Certificate students are subject to all general policies governing the courses for the master's degree." A graduate certificate needs to have at least 50% of its credits as stand alone graduate courses.

2) Conversation between Geosciences and the Grad Council led to the understanding that the CAT I proposal is creating both a graduate certificate and a graduate minor. If that is the intent, you will need to submit a CAT II proposal to establish the graduate minor. The option of a graduate minor is only automatic when there is an existing graduate major.

Meeting adjourned.