GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING
June 27, 2014
Minutes

Those in attendance were: Amanda Barefield, Jimok Kim, Michael Brands, Darren Browning, Steven Page, Mitchell Watsky, Judi Wilson, Lester Pretlow, Patricia Cameron, Adviye Ergul, Wayne Lord, Lori Anderson, Stephen Looney, Beth NeSmith, and Jennifer Waller.

I. Dr. Mitchell Watsky called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

II. Consideration of the Minutes – May 23, 2014
The minutes were considered and approved as written.

III. Old Business
a. Graduate Probation Policies
This topic was discussed at the last meeting; however, it was brought up at the last Dean’s Council as well. And, because we are trying to reconcile these kind of policies University-wide instead of just at the Graduate School level this discussion was tabled for now.

b. Student Fee Payment Plan Discussion
Dr. Watsky said that the students (particularly those on stipends) will not be able to pay their fees in installments through GRU because the policy of the USG is that fees must be paid by a certain date, usually at the beginning of the semester, thus there is no way to spread out in payroll deductions. However, GRU has now contracted with a 3rd party provider (Nelnet) that will allow students to pay tuition, fees, etc. in installments for a set, per semester fee.

IV. New Business
a. Need to Know: Dr. Watsky asked that each Council member contact Marvis in regards to how they became a Council member for the record, whether they were elected, appointed, or because they are program directors. The Graduate School would also like to know the Council member nomination process of each college.

b. Faculty Appointments
The following faculty was reviewed and approved for recommendation for the Dean: Dr. Yan Cui

Dr. Tapan Chatterjee’s appointment which was tabled at the May 23rd meeting pending receipt of more information was approved as an Associate Faculty Member.

Regarding the New Graduate Faculty Appointment Guidelines, Dr. Watsky asked if the Council wanted to keep the statement regarding notification in the guidelines and it was agreed to leave the statement in.

Also regarding the Associate Member faculty level, the procedures will state that they can serve on committees, but not chair student committees. In addition, the statement “To
be considered for Full faculty appointment, faculty must reapply” will be added. In addition, it will be added that Associate Members must spend a minimum of 1 year as an associate member before being eligible for full membership.

The statement, “All current members of the Graduate School will automatically be granted full membership” will be changed to” …will automatically maintain current membership status.”

Also, add the statement, “only once a year”, in the first paragraph.

After much discussion, these new procedures were approved with the indicated changes.

c. New Bylaws
Dr. Watsky said that up until now there is something called the Graduate Faculty Assembly and an assembly was held once a year where faculty awards were given. So, in an effort to redefine, the Council and Assembly are being combined and changing the name of the assembly meeting to the State of the School. Dr. Watsky stated that he had consolidated the Bylaws of the Graduate Council and Faculty Assembly and asked for comments. He said that he added a few comments to the revised draft and addressed the comments which Dr. Caughman had brought up.

Dr. Brands had a question regarding the calculations which are stated under Section C: Membership. Dr. Watsky said this formula was adopted from UGA. Dr. Lord asked about language regarding how adjustments would be made. Dr. Watsky said member numbers for each College would be re-calculated annually using the formula. After discussion it was approved that language be added to the bylaws stating that the formula and/or the number of representatives from each College can be adjusted by the Dean with approval of the Council.

After discussion of each point, Dr. Watsky said he would revise/amend as recommended and send back to Council for comments and then on to the Graduate Faculty for voting after approval of the Council.

V. Announcements and Reports
   a. Student Interests/Concerns
      No Report

   b. University Faculty Senate
      No Report

   c. Other Announcements
      TGS is still soliciting nominations for UFS committees. The committees are Faculty Development Committee, Governance & Communication Committee, and the Student Affairs Committee.
Dr. Watsky said that there is a new Center for Teaching and Deborah Richardson will head that center.

Dr. Cameron said that there is going to be a Graduate Student Council which will be parallel to the graduate council. The Graduate School will assist in writing the bylaws including the number of students from each college. The GSC will probably meet once a semester which will give them an opportunity to come together from all programs and feed into this group. TGS needs names of representatives from the programs to reach out and try to get together and formulate this group. The Graduate Council student reps would come from this group. This is just for Graduate School programs.

Dr. Watsky said that an Interim Head of Financial Aid) has been named.

He also said that Student Psychiatric Services is being reorganized and they will be hiring a full-time psychiatrist and psychologist.

Dr. Cameron said that she had sent out the Essential Functions document and received comments from Education and another group. This is sent to all incoming students and they are asked to sign and submit. After discussion, it was agreed to send back to Legal and then send to all incoming students.

VI. Adjournment
There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.