MINUTES
The Graduate Council
December 10, 1997
Excelsior Restaurant

Members Present: Lynne Anderson-Inman, Marian Friestad, Roger Haydock, Linda Kintz, Van Kolpin, Kristen MacConnell (master’s student representative), Mark Tveskov (doctoral student representative), Steadman Upham (ex officio), Janet Wasko, Polly Welch, Phil Young, Claire Wachter

Members Absent: Ibrahim Gassama, Katharine Cashman, Ian Duncan (on leave Fall 1997)

Staff in Attendance: Toby Deemer, Maggie Morris

Chair Marian Friestad called the luncheon meeting to order at 12:20 PM, and the minutes of the meeting of November 5, 1997 were approved as distributed.

Announcements

• Program Review
  Dean Upham reported on a recent meeting of the Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC) to which he was invited in order to address questions about the program review process. The efficacy of the reviews has been called into question because a few members of the FAC believe that there are insufficient funds available to remedy the problems that come to light during these reviews. Dean Upham discussed the history and rationale for regularized reviews as a guide to planning, making hiring decisions, and examining program or departmental administrative structures. Because of Graduate Council’s oversight role in the review process, Dean Upham encouraged the FAC to direct any further requests for review-related information to Council via the Chair. No additional requests have been received to date.

• Program Option in Semiconductor Device Processing
  Toby Deemer drew attention to the flier (included in the meeting packet) announcing a new program option for concentration in semiconductor device processing. It represents an entrepreneurial attempt on the part of the Departments of Chemistry and Physics, working through the Materials Science Institute, to expand current program offerings by integrating internships with classroom experience. This program is highly compatible with the initiatives urged by President Frohnmayer, OSSHE, and the Governor’s office to fashion programming that is more responsive to the economic needs of the state and region. Hyundai Semiconductor, Hewlett Packard, and Mitsubishi Silicon American have agreed to provide internships, and may ultimately offer employment to some of the program’s graduates. Application for admission is the
same as for present degree programs. After completing specialized new course work and the internship, students can obtain the Master of Science degree in chemistry or physics with only twelve additional credits.

• **Graduate Fellowship Brochure**
  M. Friestad circulated a prototype of the brochure that is being developed for use by fund-raisers working to stimulate contributions to the graduate fellowship component of the Capital Campaign. The brochure is designed to educate potential donors about the needs of the institution with respect to graduate education, and to encourage gifts toward fellowship endowments. Suggestions for any changes to the brochure should be relayed to Marian Friestad.

  One immediate observation was that all of the faculty profiles in the brochure were of white male faculty members; Council recommends the inclusion of a profile of at least one woman and/or a person of color. This recommendation led to a discussion of the status of affirmative action and diversity fellowships in Oregon in light of changes that have taken place in other states. Dean Upham noted that Oregon is unaffected by the legislation and court decisions elsewhere. Race is still allowed as one of many factors for admissions and fellowship purposes. Nevertheless, within Oregon, state funds for minority fellowships must be awarded to meet identified diversity goals related to the educational needs and mission of the institution. This requires using somewhat broader language in brochures and fliers than has been used in the past, but it does not prevent assigning funds to increase diversity.

• **Process for Change**
  Dean Upham announced that the reports of the Process for Change Issues Identification Groups are available on the web. The next step will be the creation of solution teams to identify strategies and programs that will set the institution’s course both for the near term and for its entry into the next century. A report of the Governor’s Task Force on Higher Education will address many of the same issues, as well as others related to the structure and function of OSSHE. The Task Force report will be presented to the Governor within the next week.

**Old Business**
None.

**New Business**
• **Preproposal for Master of Fine Arts in Dance**
  A preproposal for a program to offer the MFA in Dance has been received by Council for comment and feedback, and by the Provost for delivery to the OSSHE Academic Council. The preliminary assessment from the Provost’s Office is that mounting a new program during a period of institutional financial stress may be ill-advised.

  On the other hand, Council concluded that the proposal is thorough and well prepared, and that as a terminal degree for the field, the MFA in Dance would contribute to recruiting better students. It requires little extra funding, and even if it does not
produce increases in tuition revenue, its contribution to the state’s arts and humanities efforts would be valuable.

It was the sense of Council that the preproposal should be developed into a full proposal. It was further recommended that the proposal contain the following two additions: 1) a description of other West Coast MFA programs in Dance, with an explanation of how the Oregon program would differ from them; and 2) a reference to the type and number of employment opportunities that might be available to the program’s graduates.

Final Announcements

- Dean Upham announced that at the last State Board of Higher Education meeting the proposed programs in Environmental Science, Studies, and Policy were acted upon. With support from the Chancellor’s office, both the joint program and the Ph.D. program were approved unanimously to begin in the Fall of 1998. Each Provost, plus the Chancellor’s office, will contribute $25,000 for start-up funding to purchase equipment, provide office assistance, and fund GTFs. The programs are expected to be self-funded thereafter.

In conclusion, Dean Upham thanked Council members for their help and advice during the fall term. The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Van Kolpin, Secretary

xc: President
Vice Presidents
Vice Provosts
Academic Deans