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Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 (postponed from January 18, 2017)

Location: Rowe Building, Conference Room 320

Subject: Graduate Faculty Council (GFC) Meeting Minutes Summary

Attendees: Kari Adamsons, Daniel Adler, Hector Aguila, Ivy Alexander, Mary Anne Amalaradjou, Medhi Anwar, David Atkin, Janet Barnes-Farrell, Victoria Blodgett (Ex-Officio), Eric Brunner, Andrew Bush, Audrey Chapman, Yongku Cho, Casey Cobb, Stephen Crocker, Steven Demurjian, Pamela Diggle, Mary Anne Doyle, Valerie Duffy, Miguel Gomes, Jane Gordon, Mitchell Green, Mark Hamilton, Kent Holsinger (Ex Officio), Bryan Huey, Lawrence Klobutcher, Barbara Kream (Ex-Officio), D. Betsy McCoach, George McManus, , Barbara Parziale (Ex-Officio, Secretary), Lynn Puddington, Heather Read, Guillermo Risatti, Cristian Schulthess, Farhed Shah, David Solomon, Gregory Sotzing, Tammie Spaulding, Anastasios Tzingounis, Mark Urban, Timothy Vadas, Andrew Wiemer, Peter Zarrow, and Chuanrong Zhang.

Absent: David Benson, Zhiyi Chi, Craig Denegar, Niloy Duttta, Maria-Luz Fernandez, Ashley Helton, Donyeil Hoy (GSS), Matthew Hughey, Faquir Jain, Stefan Kaufmann, Louise Lewis, Charles Mahoney, Gary Powell, Subhash Ray, Victoria Robinson, Gregory Semenza, Zeki Simsek, Christina Sneed (GSS), David Stern, Jiong Tang, and Judith Thorpe.

Guest: J.C. Beall

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1. Agenda item number one (1) – Call to order. Dean Holsinger called to order the regular meeting of the GFC for February 1, 2017 at 3:00 pm.
2. Agenda item number two (2) – Approval of Minutes. Dean Holsinger introduced the minutes of the November 16, 2016 meeting of the GFC. There was a motion offered, which was seconded and the motion was adopted in favor by all members present. **Agenda item number two (2) was passed unanimously on a voice vote.**
3. Agenda item number three (3) – Announcement from the Dean
  - Applications for Graduate School from international students.
    - i. There continues to be uncertainty regarding what international students will be facing in light of President Trump’s executive order to temporarily stop visas from seven primarily Muslim countries.
    - ii. At this time, continue to review admissions as normal.
    - iii. One in seven students could possibly not be granted a visa. Consider this when your department is determining how many admitted students will arrive.
    - iv. We cannot guarantee an offer of a visa to international students.
  - Dean Holsinger read a letter (which he will forward to the members of the GFC) from Suzanne Ortega of the Council of Graduate Schools regarding the executive order from the President. The Council of Graduate Schools encouraged the President to reconsider the restrictions placed on international students. There was a motion to endorse the statement from the Council of Graduate Schools, which was seconded and the motion was adopted by all members present. **Agenda item number three (3) was passed unanimously on a voice vote.**

4. Agenda Item number four (4) – Graduate Faculty Status
  - Guest JC Beall discussed the draft created by the task force looking into graduate faculty status.
  - No vote was taken. Members were asked to return to their departments to discuss the draft and indicate if these are desirable changes.
  - Discussion will continue at the next regularly scheduled meeting.
  
5. Agenda Item number five (5) – New Business, Updates and Announcements
  - The proposal by the Board of Directors to institute a \$700 fee for visa processing for international students was discussed. Highlights of the proposal are:
    - i. The Graduate Assistant Union negotiated a reprieve from these fees for graduate assistants.
    - ii. Funds will be used to support the expansion of staff in ISSS.
    - iii. Funds will be used to support programming for English language services and cultural adjustments.
    - iv. Funds will also be used to add ISSS staff to regional campuses.
  
  - The Graduate School will be having 2 guest speakers visiting this spring
    - i. Melanie Sinche, Director of Education at Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine, will be in Storrs on March 30, 2017 to discuss her book, *Next Gen PhD: A Guide to Career Paths in Science*.
    - ii. Cynthia Fuhrmann, PhD, assistant dean of career and professional development in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at the University of Massachusetts will be in Storrs on April 27, 2017. She is scheduled to meet with faculty in the morning; have lunch with department heads; and meet with students in the afternoon to discuss career options, making career decisions, and creating a plan for achieving their goals.
  
  - It was suggested that students from countries encompassed by the travel ban have their application fees reimbursed if they choose to withdraw their application. Dean Holsinger agreed that this is reasonable.
  
6. There was a motion offered for adjournment which was seconded and the motion was adopted in favor by all members present. The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 with 44 members present and 1 guest.
  
7. The next regular meeting of the GFC is scheduled for March 22, 2017 in Room 320 of the Rowe Building.