

College Graduate Council

October 8, 2015

Present: Malea Powell (WRAC), Lisa Schwartzman (PHL), Zarena Aslami (ENG), Blake Williams (AAHD), Hima Rawal (Student Representative), Claudia Berrios-Campos (Student Representative), Anne Violin-Wigent (RCS), Charlene Polio (LIN, SLS), Associate Dean William Hart-Davidson

Guests: Sheila Contreras, Associate Dean for Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement; Lisa Fine, Director, Center for Gender in Global Context

Approvals—Agenda and minutes of September 10 were unanimously approved.

Associate Dean Hart-Davidson introduced Associate Dean Contreras, who gave a brief summary of what she hopes to offer students in terms of diversity in courses. She asked what can we offer students in terms of diversity/inclusion in the classroom? What do the members of this group feel they need in terms of offering graduate courses that will include diversity? Professor Aslami said that the English and African American and African Studies graduate courses are cross-listed. In Philosoph7, Professor Dotson has taught Black Feminist Epistemology; and Professor Frye (retired) worked with diverse and feminist topics. Professor Powell said that in Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures, they are working to include diversity and culture and inclusive practices that will be saturated in that knowledge; for example, rhetorical history in east Asia, Africa, and the Americas. Contreras said she thinks of inclusion more where it will just be part of the curriculum, versus being an “other.” Powell said it would be nice to have a teach-in as to how to saturate a course in inclusion. Hart-Davidson said this is a strategy that many of the programs use with their core courses. Professor Fine said this message needs to be told also to the higher administration across the University. Contreras said she was recently at a conference regarding diversity and inclusion, and there was no representation from the humanities; it was almost all from social science, so including the humanities more should be examined.

Curricular Items:

Hart-Davidson introduced Professor Lisa Fine, regarding a program change for the graduate specialization in Women’s and Gender Studies, as well as a new course, WS 897. The program change is to introduce a dedicated graduate course—WS 897. There has not been up to now the funds for faculty to teach a dedicated graduate course. Everyone who has taught the WS 497 has found it a challenge to bridge the graduate and undergraduate students. By putting forth a new graduate course as a core requirement, thus the program has to be changed. The description has been cleaned up, the number of required credits changed from 10-12. Motion to approve program change: approved and seconded. Program change was unanimously approved.

Motion to approve new course: approved, seconded, unanimously approved.

Course Change WRA 890—Professor Powell explained that when the course was instituted, the number of credits allowed for an independent study was only 3, so the change is to allow students to take an independent study more than once. Motion to approve program change; approved and seconded. Unanimously approved.

Announcements

1. Subcommittee assignments and competition dates—There was a request by the group to change University fellowship deadline from Monday, January 11, 2016 to Tuesday, January 12. There was also agreement about including the summer support fellowship nomination deadline to be the same as SCRAMs and Varg-Sullivan awards (Friday, March 4, 2016).

There are still four DCF awards available for this year. Hart-Davidson will send an e-mail to the graduate directors of the students on the list from this past spring, and ask if those students are still interested in receiving the award, if they are more ready, etc. There was discussion about the February 12 proposed deadline for DCF for the upcoming year. The subcommittee would like a ranked list from departments. The group requested that the DCF deadline be changed to Monday, February 15, 2016.

2. Fully funding all incoming graduate students as college policy—Hart-Davidson stated the expectation that graduate students, doctoral students in particular, need to be admitted with guaranteed support. There was discussion regarding how to ascertain as to how many students can be offered admission. He reminded the group that they know from the recruitment and retention numbers, how many people they can admit. Professor Williams asked if that meant that more assistantships might be available, and can chairs ask for more assistantships; to which Hart-Davidson responded affirmatively. He told the group that if the graduate directors wish to admit more students than the target, they should first approach their chair for funding.
3. Hart-Davidson reminded the group to get diversity and inclusive recruitment proposals in, preferably before October 15.
4. GAMS training opportunities are available on October 12 and 16, as a reminder from the e-mail sent from the Graduate School.
5. Spring TA Tuition Pool applications are due to the Graduate School on Friday, October 23.

Discussion Items

1. CAL Research Enhancement Programs—Hart-Davidson handed out a sheet detailing these, which included research enhancement funds; inclusive recruitment funds, external grant incentives to encourage outside fellowship applications; and top recruit funds. He will prepare a message in the next few days to send to the graduate students about applying to outside grants. Top recruit is a new fellowship line that will hopefully assist the graduate programs in convincing their top recruits to come to MSU. There will be \$100,000 per year for this. It can include 5-year support, supplemental fellowships, summer support, etc. The College wants the chairs to think of two columns for graduate education: the baseline including the assistantship, which is what they will need to survive. Research enhancement is what is there to enhance the experience. Williams asked if applying for external funds, for MFA students, could that be tied to applying to a residency, and Hart-Davidson said yes.

2. GradPlan—Professor Polio had asked that some discussion regarding GradPlan be incorporated into this month’s meeting; however, due to time, the group agreed this should be tabled until next session.

Roundtable—Aslami indicated that the new website for English has some issues. Hart-Davidson advised her to get in touch with Scott Schopieray, Assistant Dean for Technology & Innovation.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10