**Minutes**

**Graduate Programs Council**

**September 19, 2012**

Present: Todd McCrary, Jessica Solano, Cassandra Jackson, Shri Rao, Brenda Leake, Susan Hydro, Lisa DeMarsico

Minutes from the GPC meeting on April 19th were approved

Rao shared with GPC members the status of the items pursued by GPC 2011-2012. Items discussed are as follows:

Rao stated that Steering has responded to GPC’s recommendations for graduate student involvement in governance. GPC now has to decide whether it wants to respond to Steering’s response. A discussion ensued on Steering’s response especially with regard to the formation of a virtual graduate student association. GPC members were of the opinion that the Virtual Student Association would be a good way for graduate students to have a collective voice. Perhaps in a few years it could evolve into an on campus graduate student association. Susan Hydro said that the atmosphere on campus is more supportive of such ventures and it is a good time to perhaps set up such an association. The discussion also touched on the fact that one of the impediments to setting up an on campus graduate student association in the past has been the fact that graduate students do not pay a student fee like undergraduate students. Susan mentioned that Ceil O Calaghan had mentioned last year that she would lend a hand with set up of a virtual association and that fees would not be needed for a virtual entity. In this context, Susan Hydro also mentioned that as a result of GPC’s work last year, some changes were happening. She stated that there is a growing recognition that graduate students are members of the campus too and this is now visible in student affairs.

Susan Hydro reported on her follow up of GPC’s recommendations for revisions to the online policy manual. She clarified that the online policy manual was different from the old policy manual that went through governance. The online policy manual consisted of policies and procedures in different places across the campus that were put together. She said that the revisions she reviewed with other offices and the graduate versions of policies that she submitted as new should now be in place and that everything except for the academic calendar should be resolved. Susan mentioned that she had also followed up with CAP on revisions to the Academic Integrity policy. Brenda Leake mentioned that the academic integrity policy is undergoing major changes because it was long overdue and probably everything is up in the air.

Rao listed the GPC policies that are currently pending in CAP. Brenda Leake reported that CAP has informally supported most of the GPC policy changes that were forwarded to CAP last year. Rao said she would follow up on these policies and report on their progress.

GPC members discussed potential goals for 2012-2013. Hydro talked about the need for GPC to develop something similar to the current undergraduate comparator list. Hydro explored with Marie Tuscano in Institutional Effectiveness to see if we could go through the same process for looking at the graduate comparator list. Marie provided a list based upon data elements, like programs, etc. Hydro mentioned it would be a good idea for GPC to review this list and come up with GPC’s recommendations for refinement. With this regard, Leake mentioned that it would be interesting to get data on comparator schools that are doing online courses and see if they are doing something different or if there is something different in their offerings. It was suggested that we need to make some modifications to move towards blended graduate courses. There may be some local competitors who are not on that list and who should be.

In her report, Susan mentioned the issue of graduate students being turned away from activities or concerts on campus if they don’t pay their fees. Susan said she tried working through student activities last year to transfer some money from her budget to create some funds. Student Activities was speaking with SGA but never responded. She will work to pick this up again and felt that recent changes in Student Activities might result in a positive conclusion to this issue. GPC members felt that this was an issue worth pursuing.

Submitted respectfully,

Shri Rao