

GRADUATE COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting
February 16, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 1:30. Members in attendance were: Haiyan Cai, Toby Kellogg (for Patricia Parker), Mary Troy (for Sally Ebest), Michael Griffin, Stephen Moehrle, Teresa Guess, Ruth Jenkins, Susan Kashubeck-West. Members absent were: Joyce Corey, Tom Eysell, Bill Kyle, Ruth Iyob, Richard Rosenfeld, Carl Bassi, Michael Murray.

The main agenda item is the review and recommendation of awardees for the Graduate School Recruitment Fellowships and the Graduate School Dissertation Fellowships.

Background

These fellowships are funded from the \$250,000 funds from the Chancellor for recruitment purposes. When the funds originally became available, Council included a few dissertation fellowships in order to meet an Action Plan goal regarding increasing the number of PhD graduates.

Thoughts on Funding Options:

- UMC offers recruitment fellowships for one year only. Since we fund students for four years, it significantly reduces the number of awards we can give.
- In 2005-06 we only awarded 4 fellowships as other awardees declined our offer. If we increased the amount of each award, we might be able to recruit more and better students.
- The health insurance Plan I, the cheaper alternative, is being eliminated. Should we increase TA insurance stipend?
- Should we offer fewer dissertation fellowships? They are full fellowships that could be divided to recruit more new students.

Recruitment Fellowships. Council received one recruitment fellowship application from Chemistry and recommended that it be funded at \$4,000 with minority funds. Meghan Mulcrone will be awarded a four year fellowship at \$4000 per year.

The Dean mentioned that the Department of Biology may be forwarding 2 outstanding minority candidates from the University of Hawaii. These applicants, if awarded, could also be funded from other Graduate School fellowship funds, not from the \$250,000 from the Chancellor. The Council agreed to continue the past practice of the dean making the decision about minority recruitment scholarships so that faculty can get a quick decision rather than waiting for the Council to meet.

Dissertation Fellowships. If we do not change the funding options, we have funds to award up to 3.5 dissertation fellowships.

Council decided to maintain the past funding option then determined the criteria by which they will review the dissertation fellowships:

- Who will be able to finish within one year

- Letters of support
- Need
- Strong Dissertation

If they hold a TA/RA appointment, they should decline it in order to receive the dissertation fellowship.

Nominees and awardees for the fellowships were:

Aileen Bongat, Chemistry, \$14,000
Amy Ruffus Doerr, Education
Renata Duraes (Ribeiro), Biology, \$14,000
Sang-Baek (Chris) Kang, Business \$7,000
Rosemary Makano, Political Science
Amy Narishkin, Education
Gregorious Papadakos, Chemistry
Adriana Rodriguez, Biology
Weiwei Zhu, Mathematics, \$14,000

Other Business

Mary Troy, MFA program director, requested that the MFA program be considered with the Ph.D. programs in future Recruitment Fellowship competitions since it is the terminal degree, even preferred to the Ph.D. in Creative Writing offered at UMC. Last year the MFA program had 40 applicants in Fiction and 25 in Poetry but accepted only six in each area. There is no funding and only a rare TA assistantship to offer their students. Council agreed that the MFA program could submit applicants for the Recruitment Fellowships in the future.

Council wants the April 5 Graduate Recruitment fellowships submitted to the Graduate School electronically. That will allow Council to receive them quickly and be able to discuss them at the April 6 meeting.

The meeting ended at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Moehrle
Vice-Chairperson and Secretary

SM:meh