The Graduate College’s Annual Meeting of the Graduate Faculty  
April 23, 2015, Room 407 Illini Union

1. The meeting began at 2:00 p.m. with a welcome from Interim Dean, Sarah Lubienski. She thanked everyone for attending and engaging with the Graduate College. All attendees were then asked to introduce themselves.

2. The first item on the agenda was a report from the Graduate College Fellowship Board. Sharee Robinson, Assistant Dean for Administration and Finance provided the update:

   Fellowship Board Competitions
   - Illinois Distinguished Fellowship – PhD, 2 rounds
   - Master’s and Dissertation Travel Grant – fall and spring
   - Dissertation Completion Fellowship

   Graduate College Fellowship Committee Competition
   - Graduate College Fellowship – PhD and Master’s, 2 rounds

   Fellowship Board Area Committees
   - Area Committee I – Engineering and Physical Sciences
     Darko Marinov (Computer Science), Chair
   - Area Committee II – Humanities and Creative Arts
     Heather Hyde Minor (Architecture), Chair
   - Area Committee III – Behavioral and Social Sciences
     Donald G. Hackmann (Education Policy, Organization & Leadership), Chair
   - Area Committee IV – Biological and Agricultural Sciences
     Angela Kent (Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences), Chair

   Fellowship Board Executive Committee
   - Chair, Bettina Francis (Entomology)
   - 4 Area Committee Chairs
   - 2 Graduate Students – Carolyn Butts (Crop Sciences), Amelia Kimball (Linguistics)
   - Graduate College Associate Dean – Ex Officio
   - Dean of the Graduate College – Ex Officio
Graduate College Fellowship Committee – Assata Zerai, Chair

- **Area Committee I – Humanities and Social Sciences**
  - Adrian Burgos (History), committee member
  - Richard T. Rodriguez (English), committee member

- **Area Committee II – STEM**
  - Elvira de Mejia (Food Science and Human Nutrition), committee member
  - William L. Wilson (Materials Research Laboratory), committee member

- If a department does not do well with certain fellowship competitions, the Graduate College often reaches out to ask someone from that department to serve on the Fellowship Board. This often assists the department with strengthening future fellowship applications.

- **Recruitment Fellowships**
  
  **Illinois Distinguished Fellowships ($25,000.00 for 3 years)**
  - 2012-13: 123 nominations; 64 offers; 19 accepts
  - 2013-14: 138 nominations; 41 offers; 4 accepts
  - 2014-15: 149 nominations; 57 offers; 19 accepts
  - 2015-16: 130 nominations; 52 offers; 13 accepts to date (April 15th was the deadline, however, the Graduate College relies on departments to communicate decisions).

  **Graduate College Fellowships (Doctoral)**
  - Three-year $25,000 Fellowship – Graduate College Distinguished Fellowship
  - Two-year $20,000 Fellowship
    - 2012-13: 131 nominations; 61 offers; 25 accepts
    - 2013-14: 138 nominations; 52 offers; 23 accepts
    - 2014-15: 156 nominations; 51 offers; 23 accepts
    - 2015-16: 145 nominations; 49 offers; 20 accepts to date

  **Graduate College Fellowships (Master’s)**
  - One-year $12,000 Fellowship
    - 2012-13: 47 nominations; 15 offers; 10 accepts
    - 2013-14: 36 nominations; 15 offers; 8 accepts
    - 2014-15: 30 nominations; 15 offers; 14 accepts
    - 2015-16: 37 nominations: 15 offers; 8 accepts to date

- **Retention and Progress: Fellowship and Grant Support**
  - Travel Grants – 2 competitions per year
    - Dissertation (up to $5,000)
      - Fall 2014: 40 nominations; 14 awards
      - Spring 2015: 50 nominations
    - Master’s Project (up to $500)
      - Fall 2014: 6 nominations; 5 awards
Spring 2015: 7 nominations  
  - Dissertation Completion Fellowship ($20,000)  
    - 2012-13: 56 nominations; 19 awards  
    - 2013-14: 62 nominations; 26 awards  
    - 2014-15: 76 nominations; 29 awards  
    - 2015-16: 80 nominations; 29 awards expected  

- External Fellowship Office (Slide #12)  
  - Aim: To promote interest in external fellowships and help students submit more competitive proposals.  
  - Methods:  
    - Maintain a database of fellowship opportunities  
    - Host proposal-writing workshops  
    - Utilize web-based tools  
    - Offer one-on-one proposal writing assistance  
  - Staff  
    - Ken Vickery, Director  
    - Colleen Vojak, Assistant Director  
    - Karen Ruhleder, Assistant Director  

- Exciting Results to Date for Current Graduate Students:  
  - 27 NSF Graduate Research Fellowships (up from 19 in 2014)  
  - 4 Fulbright IIE Fellowships (largest number in 4 years)  
  - 2 National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowships  
  - 2 Boren Awards (campus record)  
  - 1 APA Koppitz Child Psychology Graduate Student Fellowship (first for the campus)  
  - 1 Ford Diversity Fellowship  

3. The next items on the agenda were the Graduate College Executive Committee updates. They were provided by John C. Hart, Associate Dean of the Graduate College:  

Executive Committee membership:  
- Dean Sarah Lubienski*, Chair  
- Prof. Abbas Aminmansour*, Architecture  
- Prof. Dilip Chhajed, Business Administration  
- Prof. Wojtek Chodzko-Zajko, Kinesiology  
- Prof. Susan Cole*, Social Work  
- Prof. John D’Angelo, Mathematics  
- Prof. Nicki Engeseth, Food Science & Human Nutrition  
- Prof. Susan Fowler, Special Education  
- Marie Heffernan, Graduate Student in Psychology  
- Prof. Paul Hergenrother*, Chemistry  
- Prof. Jack Juvik*, Crop Sciences  
- Samantha Knoll*, Graduate Student in Mechanical Science & Engineering  
- Prof. John Lambros, Aerospace Engineering  
- Prof. Glaucio Paulino, Civil & Environmental Engineering  
- Prof. Dana Rabin*, History
New Policies:

- Credits for graduate minor can contribute toward degree requirements upon approval of the DGS or GSC: [http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook/2/chapterix](http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook/2/chapterix)
- Doctoral committee external member criteria clarified: [http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook/chaptervi/section04](http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook/chaptervi/section04)
- English Proficiency of graduate non-degree exchange students can be verified without the TOEFL/IELTS at special request of the department: [http://www.grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply/intexchange](http://www.grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply/intexchange)
- Graduate student exam forms can now be submitted electronically: [http://www.grad.illinois.edu/faculty-staff/toolkits/thesis-review](http://www.grad.illinois.edu/faculty-staff/toolkits/thesis-review)
  Electronic submission saves time for both departments and students.

4. The next items on the agenda related to initiatives to promote Educational Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. This information was presented by Assata Zerai, Associate Dean of the Graduate College:

- Aspire Campus Visit and Early Application Program
- Sloan University Center for Exemplary Mentoring
- Illinois Partners for Diversity
- Community of Scholars
- Graduate Student Appreciation Educational Equity Event
- Summer Research Opportunities Program
- Summer Predoctoral Institute
- Illinois Summer Research Symposium

Each initiative was then expanded upon:

- **ASPIRE:** 35 Programs hosted a total of 86 students
  - We offered Aspire fellowships to 11 students, and so far 6 have accepted our offers (2 MA and 4 PhD)
  - Next year’s Aspire program dates: September 20-21, 2015
  - Students are applying for next year’s Aspire program now, and their applications are due by May 8th. We ask programs to accept students for Aspire visits 2015-16 by May 22nd, 2015. Depending on funding, this program may be smaller next year.

- **UIUC** is a new Sloan Foundation University Center of Exemplary Mentoring (UCEM)
  - Sloan has provided $1M across 3 years to fund 25 $40k fellowships, and UIUC will fund at least 25 $10k fellowships (2015-16, pilot year of program for 6 students in Chemistry, Mathematics, and Physics)
o Funding will be accompanied with a suite of mentoring, professional and academic development programming, including a fall orientation, a spring symposium, and meetings/activities for approximately 4 hours/month.

o Illinois Partners for Diversity: To promote research partnerships among UIUC faculty and MSI’s to encourage recruitment of undergrads from MSIs to UIUC graduate programs.

o Community of Scholars (COS): 23 programs hosted a total of 56 students March 15-17, 2015. Sixteen students presented their scholarly work at our COS symposium

o Grad Student Appreciation Week, April 6th EEP event: Ceremony and reception to honor Illinois URM graduate students to recognize academic excellence and good citizenship. 179 certificates to emerging scholars nominated by graduate programs and/or the Graduate College.

o Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP): Program dates for 2015 are June 1 – July 31. There is an optional GRE Institute on May 18-23, 2015. 1,600 student applications were considered. 61 students have been invited to participate this summer. Last year we had 62 SROP participants and 53 faculty mentors.

o Summer Pre-doctoral Institute (SPI). Applications are being accepted until April 24, 2015. The Program dates are June 3 – July 31, 2015. Last year’s program had 30 PhD – seeking participants (16 STEM and 14 Humanities/Arts/Social Sciences)

o Illinois Summer Research Symposium (ISRS): All SROP and SPI participants will present work at ISRS on July 23-24, 2015. In addition, the following programs are confirmed to participate in ISRS 2015: SROP at UIC, students from NSF-funded REUs (nano@illinois REU and RET, Discoveries in Bioimaging REU, and Howard Hughes Medical Institute Exceptional Research Opportunities Program), NIH-funded Maximizing Access to Research Careers, Undergraduate Student Training in Academic Research), McNair at UIUC, and Indiana State University. Last year’s program had 144 total participants (120 oral presentations, 71 post presentations, and 32 roundtable presenters).

The Graduate College explained that due to budget cuts, some of the initiatives may have to be cut. Attendees were encouraged to provide the Graduate College with feedback regarding where it would be most appropriate to make the cuts.

One of the meeting attendees asked if there are any fellowships available for new, first generation graduate students. The Graduate College explained that there are very, very few of these types of fellowships available and they are highly competitive.

5. The next items on the agenda were Graduate Initiatives and Events. This information was provided by Cara A. Finnegan, Interim Associate Dean of the Graduate College:
• Interdisciplinary Initiatives:
  Focal Point
  o Goal – Stimulating new interdisciplinary research through faculty-graduate student collaborations. Grants up to $12k plus an additional $3k for a culminating campus event or international travel are available.
  o This year there were 9 funded projects, organized by members of more than 25 campus units; 21 organizers are grad students.
  o For 2015-16 applications, the proposals are currently under review and it is anticipated that the winners will be announced in mid-May.
  o There will be a Focal Point poster session at the new student welcome reception held in the Fall 2015.

Intersect
  o Interdisciplinary arts and humanities research and training
  o Provides up to $250k fellowship funding per two-year award to support graduate students in arts and humanities
  o One project is wrapping up this year (Global Indigenous Studies)
  o For 2015-16, there is one continuing project (Global Cultures of Law) and one new project (Seeing Systems, funded through 2017)
  o Intersect as it currently exists is planned to end in 2017 after five years; there will possibly be a similar initiative proposed by the Interdisciplinary Humanities Working Group to be run out of the OVCR.

• Events
  o Annual Workshop for Directors of Graduate Study and Graduate Contacts to be held on October 13, 2015 at the I-Hotel and Convention Center. It will be a half-day session with brief updates from the Graduate College, a Plenary session, and breakout sessions. The Graduate College welcomes suggestions for topics. The 2014 Workshop took place on October 7, 2014 and had an attendance of approximately 140.
  o Workshops on Faculty Mentoring of Graduate Students. One of these workshops was held in October 2014 – Learning to Mentor Graduate Students (for pre-tenure faculty); 54 attended. Another workshop was held in January 2015 – Bruce Shore, author of The Graduate Advisor Handbook, on student-centered mentoring spoke and 65 attended.
  o For 2015-16, there are plans to shift from the current format to one shorter workshop per semester. In October 2015, the topic will be “What is an individual Development Plan and How Will it Benefit My Students?” The Graduate College has not yet finalized the topic for the Spring 2016 and asked for suggestions of topics.

6. The next item on the agenda was the Assessment of the Illinois Doctoral Experience (AIDE). This information was provided by Kim Shinew, Associate Dean of the Graduate College:

http://www.grad.illinois.edu/AIDE

  • There are 5 program areas, 17-19 programs in each
  • One area is reviewed each year on a 5-year cycle
  • The first AIDE reviews occurred in the Fall 2013 – Spring 2014
  • The review committees include 4-5 faculty members from the area programs
Program leaders now meet with committee members and the Graduate College Dean to discuss the draft report. These meetings typically take place in February – March.

The deans then meet with the Provost and the Graduate College Dean to discuss the reports. These meetings typically take place in April – May).

The Review Committee for 2014-2015 was made up of the following faculty members:

- Richard Cooke, Agricultural and Biological Engineering (ACES)
- Thomas Jacobs, Plant Biology (LAS)
- Stephen Moose, Crop Sciences (ACES)
- Romana Nowak, Animal Sciences (ACES)
- Lori Raetzman, Molecular & Integrative Physiology (LAS)

Sources of Program Data are from:

- DMI Data
- The Department Questionnaire
- Placement Data
- Student Surveys:
  - Survey #1: Admitted students – focusing on why they accept or decline admission
  - Survey #2: After students are in a program for 1-2 years
  - Survey #3: An Exit survey (AAU data sharing)
  - Survey #4: Two years post-graduation
- Programs are rated in 3 Areas:
  - Student satisfaction and preparedness
    - Data obtained from student surveys
  - Program effectiveness – criteria include:
    - Program demand, diversity, selectivity
    - Retention, time to degree
    - Financial aid package and reliance on state funds
    - Mentoring, advising, professional development, program structure
    - Student placements after graduation
    - Data from DMI, department questionnaire, placement data, student survey
- Progress on goals set during previous review

As an outcome of the AIDE process, some PhD graduate program best practices were suggested by the 2015 AIDE Review Committee. These build upon the best practices gathered from the 2011 review:

http://www.grad.illinois.edu/bmp

- Organize a substantial new grad student orientation
- Provide more than perfunctory ethics training
- Establish a clear mechanism for grad student issues to be shared/aired
- Support career development
- Establish a graduate student organization
- Offer or refer students to a scientific writing skills course

Before proceeding to her portion of the meeting, Interim Dean Lubienski asked if there were any questions. One attendee asked about how fellowship allocation information is tracked. It was
explained that there is no campus-level system in place to track fellowship allocations. However, the Graduate College Fellowship Office does compile and maintain data relating to the fellowships awarded directly by the Graduate College. Due to a variety of factors, funding used for Block Grants is easier to track than general fellowship funding. In addition, the Graduate College must rely on departments to provide student fellowship accept/decline information. This further complicates the process.

7. The last items on the agenda were some general updates provided by Interim Dean Sarah Lubienski:
   - Graduate Tuition Allocation & Expenditure Pilot (G-TAEP)
     - Objectives – Monetize tuition and integrate into annual budget process, encourage awareness of costs of waivers and thoughtful “right-sizing” of programs:
       - Two pilot groups are running: They helped shape the discussion of the new reporting system and tentative implementation plans. They also raised important questions about possible perverse incentives and unintended consequences
       - Next Steps: The Graduate College and the OVCR will build from the pilot group’s work to facilitate a modeling group over the summer, take stock of prior sets of recommendations, and push forward for next year.
   - Graduate College Dean Search Update:
     - Search Committee:
       - Fritz Drasgow, Chair, Dean of Labor and Employment Relations
       - Amy Ando, Agricultural and Consumer Economics
       - Dilip Chhajed, Business Administration
       - Victoria Coverstone, Aerospace Engineering
       - Matthew Gilbert, American Indian Studies/History
       - Jacqueline Hitchon, Advertising
       - Sara Hook, Dance
       - Anne Kopera, Graduate College
       - Calvin Lear, Graduate Student
       - Silvina Montrul, Spanish and Portuguese/Linguistics
       - Rosa Milagros Santos Gilbertz, Special Education
       - Jamelle Sharpe, Law
       - William Stewart, Recreation, Sport & Tourism
       - Renée Trilling, English
     - Interviews with the finalists will take place in May.

8. The meeting ended at 3:16 p.m. with Interim Dean Lubienski thanking everyone for attending the meeting.