College of Education
Graduate Studies Leadership Team (GSLT)
Minutes of March 1, 2011

Present: J. Lehman, A. Samarapungavan, Y. Mantzicopoulos, P. VanFossen, A. Sadaf, R. Frisbie, J. Phillion, and K. Dietz

Discussion Items:

1. Fellowship award process

   Jim Lehman asked the group whether the process for selecting fellowship recipients worked well for the Departments this year. To begin the process, he receives an e-mail from the Graduate School outlining the dollar amounts for the awards. Jim said one issue is the funds do not match exactly with the particular number of awards allotted for the College. The COE sometimes asks for additional money from the Graduate School when allocated funds are insufficient to fully support awards. In other cases, excess funds may be returned to the Graduate School. Approval for any changes must be granted before allocations to departments are finalized.

   There was a little confusion this year about the deadline dates, but the Graduate Chairs and Department Heads felt the timeline and process were fine. The program areas submit nominations by the end of January, and then the Departments have a couple of weeks to make the final decisions.

   In regard to the Purdue Doctoral, anyone is eligible for this award based on the individual’s ability to contribute to the diversity of the graduate student body indicated by application materials, which include a diversity essay, and whether the person is a graduate of an accredited U.S. high school (the nomination form on the website will be changed to list the U.S. high school).

   There is only one pool of students for the Andrews and Ross Fellowships. If a person declines the Andrews, it goes to the person who was awarded a Ross.

   Discussion followed regarding Summer PRFs. A few PRFs are available from the Graduate School in the summer for students who have been teaching assistants for the last two semesters. Each year there is an allocation given to the College. The two departments can still inquire about these for summer 2011. Dr. Lehman will report back to the Graduate School that it would be helpful to have more communication about this particular funding.

2. Recruitment—Guaranteeing support for doctoral students who do not hold fellowships

   Guaranteeing support for doctoral students has been discussed in the past. Jim Lehman asked whether the College of Education can guarantee funding packages to students based on in-house assistantships. The Department of Educational Studies has looked into this and thought some programs could possibly offer packages for
newly-admitted students. Curriculum and Instruction thought currently it could be done, but due to future cuts in the budget resulting in fewer assistantships, there would be no way to support all of the students for the long term. This remains a challenge that the College will continue to look at in the future in order to help with recruitment.

Jim Lehman suggested having a campus visitation next year for admitted students and would be willing to provide funds for this activity. The applicants who are being offered fellowships could be given travel support (up to a certain amount) from the Associate Dean’s funds. These invited prospective students could stay with current graduate students to keep costs low for the visitors. This would be a good opportunity for them to interact with faculty and students, attend a seminar, etc. Early to mid-February might be a good time to hold the event. The group believed this would be a good recruitment effort.

3. Update on online application review system

At the November 2010 GSLT meeting, the College of Science Information Technology staff demonstrated the Graduate Applicant Review (GAR) system in which faculty are able to review admission applications online. It was decided that the College of Education would like to use this system, and the College of Science would provide the needed support at no charge.

Kathy Dietz reported that the College of Science Technology staff are making changes to the GAR system and will have “GAR 2” ready around the end of March. The College of Education will wait until the GAR 2 is finished before beginning to use this online system. The system can be customized to some extent for each of the program areas.

4. Accepting electronic transcripts as official documents

It would be very helpful and efficient if electronic transcripts could be used for admission of students. Earlier Kathy Dietz had contacted Dr. Atkinson, Associate Dean of the Graduate School for information. The Graduate School plans to begin accepting electronic transcripts as official documents from U.S. institutions (not international institutions) beginning Fall 2011 when the Graduate School transitions to Banner Document Imaging Suite. The College of Education would not be able to use the electronic versions as official transcripts until the Graduate School has implemented this process.

5. GEA update

Jim Lehman reported that the main topic at the last Graduate Education Advancement (GEA) Deans meeting was professional master’s degrees. The College of Education is moving in that direction. There is a University group meeting to discuss strategies for these professional master’s degrees. If anyone in the GSLT is interested in being part of this discussion, let Jim know.