Approval of Minutes from 11-19-14 meeting

Molleda moved for approval, Cleary seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Graduation with Distinction Master’s students

Molleda moved for approval, Rodgers seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Update Boot Camp TOEFL

If international students are admitted for Summer B to take boot camp, it would need to be part of their degree plan so their visa would cover it.

A representative of the Graduate School mentioned that if we make boot camp a requirement for international students, we may also need to require it for domestic students. Treise has an appointment with the graduate dean to discuss.

The International Center recommends the English Language Institute to assist International students with any shortfalls they may have prior to beginning their program at UF. Treise will need to make a strong case for why the ELI is not sufficient for our students. Treise will work with the Graduate School on this issue.

Increase doctoral student funding

Treise reported our program will receive $12,000 a year for three years to support strong new doctoral students for three years only. The program will receive $12,000 the first year; the following year an additional $12 for the next group of students; the following year another $12 for the third group of students; for a maximum expenditure of $36,000 per year.

The money will be for top students only—a case will need to be made for each student.

A committee member asked what if the student who receives this incentive, much like the Graduate School Fellows, does not perform well. Treise said that funding for Graduate School Fellows cannot be given to others. In that case the funding returns to the Graduate School. Spiro and Diane will be making decisions about continued funding. Each choice for the College funding must be approved by Diane and Spiro.

A clarification was requested about current doctoral funding. Grad School Fellows receive $25,000 for four years, and TAs funded by the College receive $17, 000 for three years. The additional money cannot be added to the Graduate School Fellows. It was noted that the difference in pay rates between Fellows and TAs sometimes causes friction between the students as has always been the case.

The Graduate Committee could decide from year to year if the funds would be for two or three doctoral applicants.

Treise mentioned that applications are down nation-wide. At least 16 schools moved their application dates to late January to give students more time to apply.

Spiker suggested giving Treise negotiating power rather than setting a particular amount per student.

Task Force Update

During the spring 15 semester, the task force will meet once a week. The internal deadline is the end of February to be able to spend March discussing with the departments before completing the report by the April 1 deadline.

At the next meeting Rodgers will provide information on key words used in job ads to determine the skill sets required.

The task force will be looking at other Master’s programs to see how they are changing.

Criteria for self-evaluations for coordinator compensation

Graduate Coordinators will be compensated in March. Treise will send the job description again to the coordinators who will do self-evaluations. Students in each program will be given an evaluation form for the relevant graduate coordinator.

Performance Evaluations for TAs—for mid-term

As discussed in the last meeting, if a faculty member gives a TA a less than satisfactory evaluation at the end of the term, the faculty member would have needed to meet with the TA periodically through the semester, providing multiple interventions and suggestions for improvement.

Students in the class will complete the evaluation that Treise distributed at this meeting.

The forms will not be public, but will be consistent across departments.

ATTENDING: Treise, Cleary, Ostroff, Rodgers, Spiker, Selepak, Molleda, Schmittel & Hedge