The University of Kansas
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE STUDIES

MINUTES
August 27, 2015, 11:00AM
STRONG HALL – ROOM 210

Members Present:  Brian Ackley, Jane Barnette, Justin Blumenstiel, Paula Fite, Marni Kessler, Peter Ojiambo, Ric Steele, Nina Vyatkina, Anthony Walton, Alesia Woszidlo, Christina Amaro (Graduate Student), Carmen Torre Perez (Graduate Student)

Others in attendance:  Don Steeples (Dean, CLAS), Kristine Latta (COGA), Emily Dodson (COGA), Cindy Lynn (COGA), Jim Mielke (ex-officio)

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Woszidlo at 11:05 a.m.

Introductions and Welcome
Dr. Woszidlo welcomed Dean Steeples and self-introductions were made.

Dean’s Charges for the 2015-2016 Academic Year
Dean Steeples commended CGS for their work last year and delivered the following charges to this year’s committee:

In April 2015 Graduate Studies implemented a new policy that more clearly defines what constitutes good academic standing for graduate students at KU. The policy highlights the significance of both academic performance and steady progress to degree as markers of good academic standing. It requires that good academic standing be assessed through annual reviews.

The 2015-2016 Dean’s Charges are aimed supporting the process of an annual review and good academic standing:

1. Recommend changes to the College’s Graduate Advising section of the academic catalog in two areas:
   o Define minimum requirements for the annual review of all graduate students in the College.
   o Define minimum expectations for faculty mentors and graduate mentees.

2. Define under what circumstances, if any, the College should consider an additional semester of probation or provisional status for a student who fails to achieve the minimum GPA.

3. Recommend policy language to define under what circumstances the College could initiate dismissal of a student who has failed to meet the minimum requirements of good academic standing (e.g., failing to meet the terms of a degree completion agreement, failing to achieve a minimum 3.0 GPA for multiple semesters, etc.).
Approval of the Minutes
A motion was made and seconded to approve the May 7, 2015, minutes of the Committee on Graduate Studies. The motion was approved unanimously.

The CGS 2014-2015 Annual Report to CAC
Dr. Woszidlo presented the 2014-2015 CGS Annual Report to CAC. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Annual Report. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Annual Report will be presented by the 2015-2016 CGS Chair, Dr. Steele, at the College Academic Council meeting on September 8, 2015.

CGS Chair Election
Two CGS members were nominated. Dr. Ric Steele was elected as the 2015-2016 CGS Chair.

Subcommittee Responsibilities
Dr. Latta provided a review of the subcommittees’ responsibilities which were discussed by the membership. Members were asked to submit their subcommittee preferences. Subcommittee assignments will be made early next week and members will be informed.

CGS Deadlines Calendar 2015-2016 & Subcommittee workflow
Cindy Lynn provided an overview of the CGS Submission Deadlines Calendar (2015-2016) which is posted to BlackBoard and online on the governance website.

Old Business
Dr. Latta reported the approval of the Graduate Certificate in Chemical Biology.

New Business
Dr. Latta reported that a name change request is pending with KBOR for Geography: Geography and Atmospheric Sciences. No action needed by CGS.

The College Office of Graduate Affairs developed a CLAS Specialized Graduate Support Certification Program. Space will be limited. A call for nominations and applications was sent to directors of graduate study and to graduate support staff. One aspect of the certification program is to attend a spring meeting of CGS to help support staff better understand the process of governance. CGS expressed support of this initiative.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Dr. Woszidlo at 11:45 p.m.

Lunch was served in appreciation of the CGS members’ service.

Upcoming Meetings
The next meetings of the CGS Subcommittees will be scheduled and communicated via email.
The next meeting of the Committee on Graduate Studies is Thursday, September 10, 2015, 11:00 a.m., 210 Strong Hall.

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Lynn, COGA