

Graduate Council Report  
Academic Year 2013-2014  
Submitted by Joe Lowndes, Graduate Council Chair

The Graduate Council met regularly (seven times) throughout academic year 2014-2015. As in previous years, the Council both conducted routine business and dealt with distinct matters that came up in this year.

Among the yearly activities the Graduate Council, we selected, through subcommittees, recipients of the highly competitive Graduate School awards and fellowships (2 recipients of the UO Doctoral Research Fellowship; 2 recipients of the Margaret McBride Lehrman Fellowship; 7 recipients of the Gary E. Smith Professional Development Award; 6 doctoral candidates for the Julie and Rocky Dixon Graduate Innovation Award, 2 recipients of the UO Public Impact Fellowship; and 2 recipients of the Donald and Darel Stein Graduate Teaching Award). In addition, members of the Graduate Council helped the Graduate School to publicize, recruit participants, and put on several Graduate School events. These included the Graduate Student Research Forum, which included 170 students participating from fifty disciplines; and the 3-Minute Thesis Competition, which challenged graduate students from all disciplines to compete against each other by giving the most compelling presentation of their thesis research that they could fit into 3 minutes.

The Graduate Council continued this year to focus broadly on professional development for graduate students and specifically on new graduate specialization proposals, and changes to existing programs. In terms of the former, there was the introduction of the aforementioned Dixon Award in Graduate Innovation. This fellowship, supported by \$60,000 in donor funds, is meant for those interested in pursuing careers outside of the academy. Further, it is meant to foster connections between departments or research centers and agencies, museums, non-profits, national laboratories and other institutions outside the academy. There was discussion throughout the year of professional development activities that have been promoted by the Graduate School and in departments.

The Graduate Council considered, suggested amendments to, and approved a number of changes to existing graduate programs and new specializations. Among them: We approved a German and Scandinavian Studies 5-year BA/MA program revision; a Counseling Psychology proposal for specialization in Spanish language psychological service and research; Lundquist College of Business proposals for specialization in finance and securities analysis, innovation and entrepreneurship, and sports business; and an enhancement of the School of Law's existing Master of Laws Degree program to include a general "umbrella" structure degree program to allow students to choose from a number of subject matter concentrations.

The Graduate Council ended the year with a presentation from Provost Coltrane on the future of the Graduate School. Coltrane reported that there is a restructuring under consideration in which the Graduate School would be separate from the Office

of Research, Innovation and Graduate Education, resulting in the Graduate School having its own dean. Coltrane invited feedback from Graduate Council members on this matter.

Issues raised by the Graduate Council that may bear discussion in the 2014-15 school year include alternative career opportunities, on-line education, recruitment of grad students, graduate student growth expectations, coordination with Development regarding increasing scholarships and grants, and mentoring.