

**Graduate Council Meeting
19 February 2013**

Present: J. Newkirk, V. Allada, L. Costoplos, S. Matson, C. Wilson, V. Hudgins, F. Montgomery, Yingchou Lin, P. Worsey, Partha Neogi, R. Landers proxy by K. Wagner, J. Myers, M. Fitch. Also present was Dr. Kate Markie, UM Office of General Counsel

1) January 23rd Meeting Minutes - Approved (Motion: Worsey, Seconded: Montgomery)

2) Guest Speaker Kate Markie, UM System on Rights of Faculty on use of thesis/dissertation defense (GLO) rubric forms.

Dr. Markie (Esq., PhD (Philosophy)) from the UM Office of General Counsel distributed a copy of CRR 490.010, Defense and Protection of Employees, and described the text as the university's promise to employees, students, and authorized volunteers to provide coverage both legal and financial if sued and the person was acting in good faith in their duties. The individual must request from the President for defense and protection, but only four or five such requests have been denied, generally when the employee was determined to have committed a crime.

Dr. Markie commented that the system has found some increase in the number of lawsuits filed against the university over the decades. Also, there seems to be more lawsuit-averse behaviors within the university such as passing a student who threatens to sue. However, courts typically do not second-guess academic judgments such as grades or passing/failing an examination.

A number of questions were asked and answers provided, largely centering on the above information or on individual cases/situations such as liability when consulting, which generally is not done as an employee but rather an individual.

3) New Business

No new business was introduced.

Meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.