

Graduate Council Minutes
March 18, 2014
12:30 – 2:00 p.m.
Main Campus, Student Union, Room 2582

Present: Brian Ashburner, Ainsworth Bailey, Barbaranne Benjamin, Amanda Bryant-Friedrich, Maria Diakonova, Michael Dowd, Ali Fatemi, Brian Fink, Rodney Gabel, Charlene Gilbert, David Giovannucci, Hans Gottgens, Stephen Prunier for GSA, Phillip Gribble, Kay Grothaus, Dwight Haase, Susanna Hapgood, Mohamed Samir Hefzy, Margaret Hopkins, David Jex, Virginia Keil, Junghwan Kim, Jon Kirchhoff, Patricia Komuniecki, Barbara Kopp Miller, Anand Kunnathur, Marcia McInerney, William Messer, Holly Monsos, Douglas Nims, Ron Opp, Nick Piazza, Susan Pocotte, Patricia Relue, Dorothea Sawicki, Constance Schall, Rebecca Schneider, Diana Shvydka, Cynthia Smas, Susan Sochacki, Pamela Stover, Mark Templin, Gerard Thompson, Viranga Tillekeratne, Jerry Van Hoy, Lois Ventura, Deborah Vestal, Kandace Williams

Excused: Joseph Dake, Mary Ellen Edwards, Ruth Hottell, Jason Huntley

Absent: Peter Andreana, Randall Ruch, Barbara Schneider, Snejana Slantcheva-Durst

Guest Speaker: Lloyd A. Jacobs, President

Call to Order, Roll Call, and Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order and the roll called. There were no Minutes to be approved at this time.

The agenda was reordered to accommodate the class schedules of the University Fellows attending this meeting.

Executive Reports

Report of the Executive Committee of the Graduate Council

On behalf of the Graduate Council Executive Committee (GCEC), Council Chair, Dr. David Giovannucci, reported that the GCEC provided questions of general interest to President Lloyd Jacobs to address today and will also take questions from the floor. The two new University Fellows and their mentors will be recognized today along with the continuing Fellows. Chair Giovannucci encouraged review of the two requests distributed with the agenda and circulated to constituents of the GC. The first request is from the GSA in which they request judges for the Midwest Graduate Research Symposium (MGRS) and the second from the Provost's office requesting faculty for HLC steering committee service. Dr. Templin and the Constitution and Bylaws Committee would like the Graduate Council (GC) to know the results of the GC constitution vote. A total of 130 valid votes were cast (2 invalid) of which 128 were for approval and 2 votes of non-approval. The new Constitution passes with 98% approval. Dr. Templin will hopefully provide a progress update on the Bylaws at an upcoming GC meeting.

Information and Discussion Items

Recognition of 2013-2014 University Fellowship Recipients

Dean Komuniecki was pleased to present to the GC the new 2013-2014 University Fellowship recipients. This award is for full time, incoming Ph.D. students, or those in the first year of their Ph.D. programs who have exceptional academic records. It is a highly competitive fellowship and is the highest graduate student award the College of Graduate Studies (COGS) makes. It includes a stipend for the academic year at the doctoral student level of each departmental program, plus remission of instructional fees, including out-of-

state, general and other fees. It may be renewed for a total of four years support, provided the student maintains an outstanding academic record and makes progress toward the degree. There are only ten University Fellows at a time.

For AY 2013-2014, we have five continuing students in their final year of their university fellowship:

- **Robert Layne** from BioSciences working with Dr. Bruce Bamber in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics;
- **Maria Hurtado Alvarado** working with Dr. Joe Hovey in Clinical Psychology in the College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences;
- **Vafa Saboorideilami** working with Dr. Hassan Hassab-Elnaby on his Ph.D. in Manufacturing Management and Technology in the College of Business and Innovation;
- **Qingnian Goh** working with Dr. Frank Pizza in Exercise Science in the College of Health Sciences;
- **Kelly Marbaugh** is working on her doctoral research with Dr. Patricia Relue in Bioengineering in the College of Engineering. She was supported by an NSF grant last year and resumed her University Fellowship this year.

We have three continuing students in their third year of their university fellowship:

- **Michelle Roley** is a third year doctoral student in clinical psychology working with Dr. Joe Hovey in the Department of Psychology in the College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences;
- **Jessica Branch** is a third year doctoral student in Special Education working with Dr. Laurie Dinnebeil, the Daso Herb Chair, in the Judith Herb College of Education;
- **Kazem Majdzadeh-Ardakani** is a third year doctoral student working with Dr. Saleh Jabarin in the Department of Chemical and Environmental Engineering in the College of Engineering. He and his advisor are unable to be with us today as Kazem is defending his dissertation proposal—we wish him well!

Each spring the University Fellows' advisors provide COGS with progress reports for them. The Dean is happy to report that they are all making significant progress toward their doctoral degrees. They are active in publishing their work and presenting it at regional and national meetings.

Last spring, Dean Komuniecki convened the Scholarships and Fellowships Committee to review the 25 University Fellows applications. The Committee selected two outstanding students and they are with us today. As Dean Komuniecki called each name, the students came forward with their advisors to be recognized.

- **April Brockman** is a first year doctoral student working with Dr. Debbie Chadee in the Department of Biological Sciences in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. Ms. Brockman began her undergraduate work in Biology at Monroe Community College where she was a member of the Honors Society and was named to the All-Michigan Academic Team and nominated for the All-American Academic Team. She came to UT in Spring 2008 to pursue a biology major and chemistry minor. She graduated summa cum laude in May 2013 with her B.S. in Biology with a Chemistry minor and immediately started her doctoral research last summer. Her research is in the area of signal transduction and she is studying how alterations in signaling can lead to cancer. Her specific focus is on the regulation of mixed lineage kinase 3- an important mediator of stress signaling. April already has enough data to present her work at two research forums on campus this spring and she is a co-author on a manuscript submitted to *Molecular and Cellular Biology*.

- **Ahmad Javaid** is a second year doctoral student in the College of Engineering working with Dr. Weiqing Sun in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering Technology. He earned his B.Tech. (Hons) from Aligarh Muslim University (India) in 2008 then worked for several years in the computer industry in India. His first position was as an applications design engineer for the Computer Science Corporation India (CSCI) Private Ltd. His second position was as a scientist fellow with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Ministry of Science and Technology in India before coming to UT to start his master's program in Fall 2011. In Spring 2013 he received his M.S. in Computer Science from UT and was accepted into the Ph.D. program. His doctoral work focuses on the security of advanced cyber physical systems and computer networks. Significantly, Ahmad already has made seven conference research presentations at major international meetings on three continents.

The Council joined President Jacobs, Dean Komuniecki and Chair Giovannucci in congratulating these University Fellows as they embark on their graduate careers here at UT.

Executive Reports

Report of the Graduate Student Association

Mr. Stephen Prunier, Treasurer of the Graduate Student Association (GSA) reported that the February 20, 2014 GSA meeting yielded another high attendance of 71 graduate students. The next meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2014. The numbers of graduate students receiving travel funding in the 2013-2014 academic year has greatly increased (192 students receiving a total of \$36,567) as compared to last year (60 students receiving a total of \$9,819). This is a very exciting outcome for the graduate students and the GSA. Mr. Prunier reminded GC of the MGRS Volunteer Registration deadline of March 21. The GSA is providing breakfast, lunch and dinner for volunteers. They are in need of additional judges—especially in psychology, education and physics; however, they will welcome volunteers from any department. Currently there are 170 people registered to participate from 36 universities. The MGRS event is scheduled for Saturday, April 29 and will take place at the Field House on the Main Campus. Lastly, the GSA Officer elections for 2014-2015 will take place March 21 through April 10. There are 14 graduate students vying for office.

Report of the Vice Provost for Graduate Affairs and Dean of the College of Graduate Studies

Dean Komuniecki briefly provided the following updates:

- *FY15 Budget*
Good news! COGS has been approved to receive the remaining 5% of the FY14 budget to be allocated strategically for FY15. Colleges will be informed shortly as to whether their area will have any changes for FY15. Also, the proposed tuition increase for graduate students will only be 1% instead of the 3.5-6.5% increases as in recent years. COGS appreciates the strong support from the senior leadership for graduate and professional education at UT.
- *Fall 2014 Enrollments*
COGS is entering the very busy application/admission season for Fall 2014 with most of the program deadlines in January and February. To date, COGS has already processed 2,744 applications and we expect to process about 3,600 before we are through (if past patterns hold). To date, 193 students have already been admitted for fall, but COGS currently has another 912 open decision pages (including 68 that have just been processed in the last week). Dean Komuniecki asked GC to have the graduate admissions committees finish their reviews and complete their decision pages as soon as possible.

- *COGS Fellowships, Scholarships and Award Applications*
Applications were received by February 14, 2014. The GC Fellowships and Scholarships Committee will meet on Monday, March 24 to discuss and make their recommendations on the following applications:
 - University Fellowships – 12 applications
 - Richard L. Bostleman Memorial Scholarship – 3 applications
 - Helen M. Fields Award – 3 applications
 - Robert R. Buell Award – 12 applications
 - Robert N. Whiteford Award – 22 applications

The COGS Diversity Committee will be meeting soon to review the Graduate Opportunity Assistantship Program (GOAP) applications. Remember those awards are cost-shared with departments, so there is an additional step to ensure that the departments are willing to participate before the GOAP applicant review process begins. COGS received 8 viable GOAP applications and 4 students have already been accepted into graduate programs (6 other GOAP applications did not meet the criteria). COGS received 7 McNair Scholar applications this year and to date 1 student has been admitted to a UT graduate program. COGS is working with the departments of these diversity applicants to ensure timely review of their applications.

- *Possible change in full time status for graduate students (from 12 to 9 hours)*
As discussed at length at a previous GC meeting, COGS is working to reduce the minimum number of hours required for full-time status from 12 credit hours/semester to 9 to be more student-centered and competitive with other USO institutions. The Federal and State governments recognize 9 hours as full-time for international as well as domestic students, and we are hoping to move in that direction as soon as the financial implications have been thoroughly examined. I hope to have more information for you about the timing of this possible shift by our next GC meeting.
- *Goal 2 Strategic Planning for Directions 2014*
The Goal 2 workgroup has met twice and members have made some suggestions about how to revise the Goal 2 subgoals and strategies. Comments from the first meeting were presented at the February 13 Senior Leadership Meeting and additional feedback obtained. The work group met a second time to review that feedback and think through other items as well. The workgroup will meet again in a couple of weeks to review a draft document. If you have any thoughts about the future directions for graduate and professional academic programs, please be sure to send them to the Dean to share with the workgroup.
- *Professional Development Programs*
 - Main Campus
 - Today: Graduation Questions Answered—3/18 from 12-1 p.m., Student Union 3018
 - Tomorrow: Literature Reviews: The Foundations for Focused Research – 3/19 from 12-2 p.m. in Carlson Library Room 2010
 - Health Science Campus
 - Tuesday, March 25: The Job Interview and Beyond! 12-1 p.m. in Collier Building, Room 1210
 - Wednesday, March 26: Resumes and Curriculum Vitae—5-6 p.m. webinar
 - Thursday, March 27: ETD Formatting and Submission—3-5 p.m. in Collier Building, Room 1220

Information and Discussion Items

Discussion with Dr. Lloyd A. Jacobs, President of University of Toledo

Chair Giovannucci introduced Dr. Lloyd A. Jacobs, President of The University of Toledo (UT), who extended his gratitude for the invitation to the GC meeting. Dr. Jacobs discussed today's unsettling times—whether it be local controversies or those located in Washington, Kiev, etc. Unfortunately, there is a lack of stability and predictability. Higher education appears to be, at least in part, a safe haven from the upheaval and chaos. Some pundits believe that of the 3,500-4,000 institutions of higher education, as many as 1,000 of them will disappear in the next decade—undergoing retrenching and downsizing. Graduate programs are the most important sustainers for the future of the university, including professional degree programs and traditional Ph.D. programs in science or humanities. An important question is—how does the University of Toledo fit into this unsustainable, chaotic world? We need to gaze ahead 20-30 years and understand what the roles of the university will be and understand that it will be very different from what it is today. We must project the future with brave commitment and responsibility. We want to be formative of that future and not be a passive recipient. Great scholars will carry forward commitment to intellect. This is a great responsibility which can also be unsettling.

Dr. Jacobs continues to be pleased with Directions 2011. This may need to be revisited and recalibrated again. Dr. Jacobs stated that Dean Komuniecki is committed to fleshing out the graduate programs and the complexities of graduate education, which are in societal demand and also important to university sustainability.

In early-to-mid spring we are always engaged in formulating the budget for the following year which begins the first of July. In the past we have had occasional layoffs. Dr. Jacobs is happy to say that this year we are reaping the benefits of 6-7 years of planning. No discussion has occurred regarding any massive layoffs and cuts. In larger vision, the budgetary improvement target for Fiscal Year 2015 was \$18 million and we believe we know from where it will come and can be formulated without massive layoffs and program closures. This is good news and Dr. Jacobs is extremely pleased.

During the question and answer session, Dr. Jacobs addressed a question pertaining to graduate assistants/teaching assistants (GA/TAs) and the funds allocated to them. Dr. Jacobs explained that the university needs to look at both the social aspect of employing GA/TAs as well as the financial aspect and that he has been in conversations with Dave Morlock regarding this. Dr. Jacobs also took into account a concern regarding sabbaticals--the stressed importance of them and the apparent decrease of them. Dr. Jacobs mentioned that last year was the first year of big cut backs in this area for UT and that many other institutions also experienced large cut backs. Dr. Giovannucci mentioned that John Barrett would be happy to talk with GC about sabbaticals.

Dr. Jacobs mentioned that he feels the future of this educational institution is heavily connected with graduate programs. Although underestimated in the past, graduate work is still the most lucrative way to get money in the door and will therefore sustain the university. We should place a hold on the cost of tuition and fees. In response to a question regarding tenured faculty, Dr. Jacobs stated that it is important for him to revisit the strategic plan at this time and to include a faculty hiring plan. There is an immediate need to work quickly because of upcoming retirees. The first step in a hiring plan is to designate areas of special interest and Dr. Jacobs is working hard to get this underway.

A council member raised a concern regarding retirements and how they will not be isolated to the STEM areas but will likely occur in random fashion. The greater concern is the probable slow demise of many graduate programs. Another member talked about her concern about the significant loss of faculty--which she feels has a direct impact upon not only the number of doctoral students but also the research funding that is obtained. She stated that graduating the requisite amount of doctoral students is directly tied to the number of faculty you have within a department. Dr. Jacobs indicated that some programs may have to shrink or end and we may have to face that possibility. He suggested that if a subset of faculty—formal or informal—believes that an area of special emphasis should be included, to please share that with Dean Komuniecki as she is leading the Goal 2 calibration. Dean Komuniecki mentioned that she was invited to join the University Council this Friday to lead a discussion on what a strategic hiring plan might consider. She asked that any ideas be shared with her via email. She identified some of the points to consider: (1) is there accreditation for the program; (2) is there student demand; (3) are students enrolling in classes; and (4) is there a major there? The institutional research provides valuable information. If only two students are graduating from the program, the program is not considered viable. Dr. William Messer stated that in order to grow the research enterprise, the Goal 3 workgroup is working on identifying ways to grow as well as developing metrics of what they think is a strong program. Some questions pertaining to student availability, enrollment, funding, grant sources, etc., are: (1) where do we have a track record of success and distinction and (2) is the infrastructure and environment able to support and mentor our faculty. We need to make hard decisions about our future. In answer to a question concerning the possibility of reinstating the carry-forward policy, Dr. Jacobs stated that if that policy does not include adequate safeguards, it can cause problems. CFO Dave Morlock has been working on this and looking into the possibility of restoring those funds. Addressing the concern about UT being ranked among universities in Ohio with the highest out-of-pocket expenses for graduate students, Dr. Jacobs indicated that Dean Komuniecki has been a powerful and successful advocate for working to keep those costs down. Unfortunately, the current high costs of health care will become higher and those forces are out of our control. When posed with a question regarding whether departments could incentivize faculty members who are extremely productive, Dr. Jacobs maintained that to some degree the unevenness of faculty productivity is the duty of the chair and dean to handle. Dr. Jacobs declared that our graduate faculty is greatly skilled and professional and will find better ways to solve various issues.

Standing Committee Reports

Constitution and Bylaws Committee

None

Curriculum Committee

None

Membership Committee

None

Old Business

None

New Business

- Dean Komuniecki reported that the Academic Honors Committee, which has recently instituted a Distinguished University Professor (DUP) Lecture Series, will be holding its first lecture featuring Susan R. Martyn, J.D., Stoepler Professor of Law and Values, Distinguished University Professor with

the UT College of Law, on April 1, 2014 from 4-5 p.m. in Room 2100 at the Memorial Field House on the main campus. The topic is "Understanding Ethics in Context: The Synergy of Teaching Research and Practice." The next scheduled lecture on April 24, 2014 will feature Distinguished University Professor Robert M. Blumenthal which will be held on the Health Science Campus. The plan for the DUP Lectures Series next year is to hold two lectures in the fall and two in the spring. Also, the call is out for nominations for new DUPs. Should you know a professor who meets the criteria, be certain to talk to your dean to see if they will help to prepare a package. A suggestion was offered by a faculty member to videotape this series and place it on the COGS website.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Council adjourned at 1:55 p.m.