

**Graduate Council Minutes
September 23, 2008**

Present: Lawrence Anderson, Jamie Barlowe, Barbaranne Benjamin, Michael Bisesi, Frank Calzonetti, Laurie Dinnebeil, Jeanne Funk, Max Funk, Hans Gottgens, Scott Heckathorn, Mohamed Hefzy, Mylo Jennings, Ruth Hottell, Dong-Shik Kim, Anand Kunnathur, Sara Lundquist, Anastasia Mirzoyants, Azadeh Parvin, Kelly Phillips, Patricia Relue, Kathleen Salyers, Barbara Schneider, Krishna Shenai, Alice Skeens, Mark Templin, Amy Thompson, Frederick Williams

Absent: John Gaboury, Wayne Hoss, Eric Longsdorf, Sakui Malakpa, Gary Moore, Ram Rachamadugu

Excused: Dwayne Demedio, Benjamin Pryor

Absent

The Minutes of the September 9, 2008, meeting were approved.

Report of the Executive Committee of the Graduate Council and the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies

Dr. Relue reported that several Graduate Council (GC) Standing Committees are now fully seeded with graduate faculty: Membership, Curriculum and Academic Standing. Graduate faculty are still needed to fill the Activities and Fellowships Committees. All the ex-officio representatives to the Graduate Council from Main Campus (MC) are in place as of today. We have our first new member on Council from the Health Science Campus (HSC), Professor Kelly Phillips, the Associate Dean in Nursing, serving as ex-officio from her college.

Dr. Bisesi reported there will be a second meeting tomorrow regarding the budget and review process relative to graduate/teaching assistantships and tuition monies. He asked for representation to this committee from GC. They may bring people to this committee on an ad hoc basis as the issues develop. Part of the current problem arose with the Provost's memo from spring setting full-time student enrollment per semester as: fall = 12 hours, spring = 12 hours, and summer = 10 hours. He stated that the needs of colleges should be addressed, and he pointed out that the money allocated for the tuition budgets did not reflect full-time student status. The committee is looking at GAPA form processing through the various offices and is moving relatively quickly to work through the issues. The discussions are more about tuition dollars and less about stipends. Dr. Bisesi will bring the report to this group.

Ms. Mirzoyants asked Dr. Bisesi to share the results of the review with the Graduate Student Association (GSA) and asked whether students can get help from the UT Foundation. Dr. Bisesi responded by saying he will make the results available when decisions have been made. Emergency loans were issued to students who were promised a graduate assistantship and experienced a delay in receiving their check. Students should have received their checks if all materials were turned in on time. Dr. Bisesi stated that the process has to be looked at objectively and during peak times more resources should be allotted to process GAPA paperwork.

Dr. Hefzy noted students can verify their check status through the UT portal using their Rocket ID. He also pointed out that in the College of Engineering, GAPA delays were mostly a result of late paperwork from departments.

Information and Discussion Items

Status of College of Graduate Studies Dean Search

Dr. Johnnie Early reported this is an open, internal search for the Dean's position and the choice to go internal is based on the assumption that there is ample talent on this campus to fill the position. The deadline to apply is October 15th. If the internal search is successful, there would be no need for expanding the pool to an external search. About 10 nominations have been received, but no applications have yet been received. Dr. Bisesi questioned whether the graduate affairs portion vs. the graduate dean portion of the position had yet been defined. Dr. Early replied he is not aware of any further detail other than what is in the position description. The search committee will send multiple names to the Provosts for their decisions.

Current Research Funding and URAF Program

Dr. Calzonetti reported the new 2008-2009 University research Awards and Fellowships Programs brochure has been distributed and describes research programs available through URAF. As of June 30th, research actually went down by about \$5 million. Contributing to the decline were several factors including the fact we received a large grant last year compared with this year, NIH funding has been flat, and some college numbers are down including the Colleges of Medicine and Arts and Sciences. We also are seeing a decline in the number of proposals submitted. The breakdown will be sent to deans and to the Graduate Council providing a summary by department and by award. There continues to be more interest in multi-investigator interdisciplinary projects so it is possible that the decline in the number of proposals reflects that people are working together on larger proposals. Also, we are seeing a good start to FY09. There are three large Ohio Research Scholars Awards that are now coming in.

There was discussion on how the awards are accounted for. Dr. Benjamin noted that sponsored projects have gone through the Graduate College instead of individual colleges and HSHS had up to \$400,000 last year. Dr. Calzonetti stated accounting for awards differs across the State. Some universities may count in their total awards that UT does not. However, the NSF does report expenditures across all universities which is a more accurate comparison of funded research activity. Dr. Bisesi asked for clarification on how funding is reported since prior to the merger, collaborations were listed for two or more departments. Dr. Calzonetti replied it now it counts to the PI. Dr. Bisesi stated in fostering interdisciplinary data the expenditures are not accurate where it is coming from. Dr. Calzonetti responded that overhead follows expenditures, but this can be directed in a different manner when the proposal is submitted. Currently, awards are made to the project PI but that split credit can be done as well so that investigators across different academic units can see their contribution reflected in the award reports.

Reconciling Graduate Policies, i.e., GPA Calculation

Dr. Bisesi stated that on the HSC the policy for a repeated course is that the new grade received replaces the original grade. Both grades are reflected on the transcript but the old grade is not used in the GPA calculation.

Use of the Withdrawal “W” grade on the HSC includes the options of using Withdrawal Pass “WP” and Withdrawal Fail “WF”, depending on a student’s status. Dr. Patricia Metting brought to the Graduate Executive Committee (GEC) the issue of “WF” and “WP” going away and no one wanted it eliminated. The Registrar on the HSC is looking at Banner to determine if it can accommodate “WF” and “WP”.

There was discussion on when a grade of “W” is assigned and the timing for withdrawal on the MC versus the timing for withdrawal on the HSC. The rationale for assigning either “WP” or “WF” on the HSC is due to the late withdraw period, basically up until the last week of classes. One of the primary differences between the grading systems is that a “WF” counts in the GPA calculation as an “F”. If a student receives a “WF”, the student would have to retake and finish the course for a grade if it is a required course or if the grade is to be removed from the GPA calculation. For the “WP”, no grade is earned and it is awarded if the student was passing the course at the time of withdrawal.

The difference in grading policy has to be addressed and harmonized and could be similar with a consistent baseline. Dr. Hottell explained that during semester conversion on the Main Campus, the “WP/WF” was proposed but did not pass. In 1996 “IW” was chosen, although Engineering did not want to do that as attendance is not required in most classes. Dr. Bisesi added it is his understanding that if the grading policy only affects graduate students it should be handled by the governance of the Graduate Council and not the Faculty Senate.

The governing body needs to look at these policies from a broader perspective as well. At the time of the merger, there were two different registrars and systems in place. For example, the MC used plus/minus grading while the HSC used only straight letter grading. The plus/minus system used on MC was adopted universally without discussion. When discussed at the GEC, they voted that it should be left to the discretion of the faculty members, which most have adopted.

Organizational Reports

Ms. Anastasia Mirzoyants, President of the Graduate Student Association (GSA), reported their first meeting was held on September 11th with very good attendance of 30+. Representatives have been assigned to three internal committees: Publicity, which deals with promotional events and the organization in general, Social Events, and Budgeting, which deals with travel reimbursements among other budgeting issues. In addition, the GSA has four active officers this year, which allows the organization to be represented in more University-wide committees than last year. There are GSA reps on the COGS Vice Provost and Dean Search Committee, Budgeting Committee, Academic Standing Committee, Women Leadership Council. The GSA will be involved in tailgating on October 28th and the Halloween Masquerade on October 30th. They are also actively involved in planning the Sigma Xi Symposium on November 1, 2008. The next general assembly is scheduled for October 16, 2 – 3:30 p.m., in Student Union Room 2562.

Old Business

There was discussion on the bylaws revisions regarding the harmonized Graduate Faculty Membership categories. Modifications were made to address the concerns of GC from the last meeting.

Departments can make stricter requirements for GF membership than the baseline criteria. Tenure track faculty are not restricted from holding graduate faculty membership on the HSC, but must be engaged in graduate education.

Again, departments can establish more stringent criteria based on their programs. Also discussed was an appropriate membership category for emeritus faculty, which is likely Special Membership. Dr. Relue stated that the goal is to incorporate these updated categories into the bylaws, and requested tentative approval of the membership categories to allow the use a single graduate faculty membership form for all faculty. Following tentative approval on each part of the bylaws, a final vote would be taken on the bylaws in their entirety.

[Motion: Move to tentatively approve the Graduate Faculty membership categories as presented, allowing immediate use of a single Graduate Faculty Membership Application form for both Main Campus and Health Science Campus – Approved unanimously.]

Dr. Relue reported that the Bylaws Workgroup will consist of one representative and one alternate from each college, and that she and Dr. Bisesi are co-chairs. The first meeting will be held October 2nd and they are hoping to finish the modifications by November 6th. Anyone interested in serving should notify either Drs. Relue or Bisesi.

New Business

Dr. Lundquist expressed a sentiment brought forward by some graduate students who are unhappy with the library borrowing policy. The loan period is too short which results in having to renew several times in order to retain the book. Graduate students feel they are junior members of the profession and should have the same borrowing privileges as faculty.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Council adjourned at 1:41 p.m.