

**Graduate Council Minutes  
February 3, 2009**

Present: Lawrence Anderson, Jamie Barlowe, Barbaranne Benjamin, Jeanne Brockmyer, Frank Calzonetti, Dwayne Demedio, Max Funk, Hans Gottgens, Scott Heckathorn, Mohamed Hefzy, Wayne Hoss, Ruth Hottell, Mylo Jennings, Dong-Shik Kim, Patricia Komuniecki, Anand Kunnathur, Eric Longsdorf, Sara Lundquist, Sakui Malakpa, Anastasia Mirzoyants (GSA), Gary Moore, Azadeh Parvin, Kelly Phillips, Susan Pocotte, Benjamin Pryor, Ram Rachamadugu, Patricia Relue, Kathleen Salyers, Dorothea Sawicki, Barbara Schneider, Alice Skeens, Amy Thompson, Frederick Williams

Absent: John Gaboury, Randall Ruch, Krishna Shenai, Mark Templin, James Trempe, Hermann Von Grafenstein

Excused: Michael Bisesi, Laurie Dinnebeil, Barbara Kopp Miller, Dianne Smolen

***Call to Order and Roll***

***Report of the Executive Committee of the Graduate Council and the Vice Provost for Graduate Affairs and Dean of the College of Graduate Studies***

Dr. Patricia Komuniecki reported she had hoped to be able to provide an update on the assistantship budget for the next academic year, but with the budget still under discussions she will report back to the Council as soon as she has a clearer picture on the allocations. In the meantime, she will support some tuition scholarships in target areas. The FY10 COGS budget will encompass both campuses for the first time. Dr. Komuniecki welcomed Council to share the input. She also reported that the Council has invited Dr. David Dingham to discuss compliance in submission of key forms and that he will join the Council in a couple of weeks. We would like to get to the point where we have best practices, not poor practices.

Dr. Michael Dowd noted that an Associate Dean for Graduate Studies is also needed on the Main campus to handle daily issues and he hoped that position would be given consideration during the budget construction process. Dr. Dowd argued that position should be viewed as a strategic investment. Dr. Komuniecki indicated that she was planning to make such a request as part of the budget planning process (despite the need to submit projected 7% and 15% budget decrease scenarios).

***Standing Committee Reports***

**Report of the Membership Committee**

Dr. Mohamed Hefzy, Membership Committee chair, reported that the representative to the committee from the College of Business, Dr. Don Beeman, is on sabbatical this semester and a replacement for him is needed.

**Report of the Curriculum Committee**

Dr. Lawrence Anderson, Curriculum Committee chair, presented the recommendations of the Graduate Curriculum Committee. Council approved unanimously.

**NEW COURSE PROPOSALS**

EDU	TSOC	TSOC:6630	The Ethics of War and Peace and Education	3
EDU	TSOC	TSOC:6340	Human Rights Education	3
EDU	TSOC	TSOC:6350	Environmental Ethics and Education	3
EDU	TSOC	TSOC:8630	The Ethics of War and Peace and Education	3
EDU	TSOC	TSOC:8340	Human Rights Education	3
EDU	TSOC	TSOC:8350	Environmental Ethics and Education	3

***Organizational Reports*****Report of the Graduate Student Association**

Ms. Anastasia Mirzoyants, President of the Graduate Student Association, reported that over the fall 2008 semester, the GSA managed to attract more students' attention toward the organization. As a result, the final event of 2008 – End-of-Semester Masquerade on December 19<sup>th</sup> -managed to gather more than 100 participants. This semester the GSA has outlined its activities for the entire sixteen weeks. There is at least one General Assembly and one social event every month. Because of the changing status of the organization and as an attempt to attract more students from the Health Science Campus, in February and April, the GSA has two general assemblies, one on each campus. The date for the GSA Symposium is set for April 10<sup>th</sup> in the Law School. Faculty are encouraged to share this information with their students. During the weeks of February 2<sup>nd</sup> and February 9<sup>th</sup>, the GSA has arranged a fundraising event, Roses for V-Day.

**Timely Grade Submission**

There are several issues that keep being revisited by the GSA. The most essential among them are: timely grade submission by the faculty and the inadequate support for graduate students at Rocket Solutions Central (RSC). Some students don't have grade submitted for the past semester. Graduate students have also reported they have spent hours at RSC and are ultimately not provided with assistance as the focus of RSC seems to be geared toward undergraduate students. The GSA seeks Council support for RSC to have at least one staff member dedicated to graduate students.

The Council discussed and supported timely grade submission. Dr. Anderson noted that grades need to be timely and PR grades that languish can last for years and delay completing material for the course. Dr. Barbara Schneider suggested proposing a stricter time limit and noted an additional issue when a faculty member leaves the University after assigning a 'PR'. Dr. Alice Skeens added there is a limit on incomplete grades and Dr. Patricia Relue noted a 'IN' grade does not impact the GPA. Dr. Dowd replied that the time to degree is sufficient to allow for delays and that a grade of 'IN' is not always an option depending on the course.

Dr. Thea Sawicki added that grade submission is serious and that chairs and deans should be accountable. Council members discussed enforcement options and noted that although extreme, graduate faculty membership could be revoked as a consequence.

Dr. Susan Pocotte thanked Ms. Mirzoyants for her input on the importance of this issue and the usefulness of this information to the ad-hoc committee convened to review grading issues for graduate issues, particularly 'WP/WF'. Dr. Komuniecki agreed that some faculty have been slow to enter grades online and as follow up to address this concern she will send a memo to the deans regarding timely grade submissions.

GSA Budget

Ms. Mirzoyants reminded the faculty that the maximum reimbursement funding available from the organization is \$175 per person.

Dr. Komuniecki reported the GSA budget was slashed from \$10K to \$5K over several years and now is at \$3,500, and that she is requesting that the Division of Student Affairs bring the funding to a more reasonable level given the thousands of graduate students at UT.

Status Update on Bylaws Work Group

Dr. Max Funk reported that Council will soon receive a draft of the revised Bylaws and have the opportunity to vote on it.

Status Update of Review of Standards for Theses and Dissertation Style Formatting Work Group

Dr. Michael Dowd reported the group had met yesterday and is drafting a document. They will continue to address and resolve issues and anticipate bringing a draft document to Council in March.

*Information and Discussion Items*Economic Development and Opportunities for The University of Toledo

Dr. Karen Bjorkman stated a proposal has been submitted to Ohio DOD for Wright Center in Photovoltaics and Renewable Energy (a follow-on to the current Wright Center for PVIC). Contained within that proposal was a commitment to create a school alternative and renewable energy as a graduate only program reporting only to the Provost. There is concern that this proposal never came through the normal review process for signature by the department chair and dean, and that six to eight faculty could potentially be removed from the Department of Physics and Astronomy to the new school. Neither the chair nor the dean were informed of these ideas prior to submission of the proposal.

Dr. Relue added that the Graduate Council is an appropriate venue to discuss where we are positioned in State with economic development and its educational component. Dr. Dowd agreed there should have been communication with the affected academic components. Not doing so is inappropriate and diminishes the role of Graduate Council. If you relocate a faculty member from an existing program to another, there will be ramifications to the home unit.

Dr. Frank Calzonetti responded that faculty routinely submit grant proposals at the last minute and although the proposal was rushed between New Year's and the start of the spring term, it was submitted. He also said that although President Jacobs and Provost Haggert cannot approve new academic programs without state approval, they can reorganize academic units. There is a rush to garner funding for renewable energy, particularly solar. He indicated that UT has growing international recognition in this area. While the State of Ohio recognizes us for this, others in the State are rushing in to take a leadership position. We are trying to take leadership in this area and had an opportunity to put a stake in the ground. Dr. Calzonetti said that although he is not in the academic line, he approved the language that turned up in the proposal. He noted that others are setting up programs in renewable energy (such as MIT in MASDAR in Abu Dhabi). This grant was an opportunity to attract additional funding to this important research area.

Dr. Bjorkman stated that while there is support for these efforts, there are concerns with implementation and how it affects our programs and courses. The concerns are with the details not the idea. There are also concerns about the process followed, particularly the lack of adequate communication prior to proposal submission.

Dr. Hefzy added a school of alternative and renewable energy also would affect other units. The College of Engineering is also involved in energy research. The word "school" means instruction and administrative functions and tasks. How does that fit into the overall scheme with colleges? Dr. Anderson questioned how academics would be structured considering the Ph.D. is still within one college and given the fact that there is not yet a school dedicated to one area. Dr. Skeens questioned whether research faculty would be required to teach. Dr. Komuniecki asked whether the College of Graduate Studies will be involved during any graduate program development and when additional details will be available.

Dr. Calzonetti said a school is narrower and that the solar enterprise will be well led. The entire University can be engaged in it. He said UT is an educational institution where there is academic research and industrial development. They will be connecting at the national and international level with industry people and there will be a lot of service. He anticipates bold movement and that more will be known by March or April. Dr. Hoss said that he is pleased UT recognized an opportunity and moved full speed ahead and welcomes Dr. Calzonetti's assistance in this endeavor.

Dr. Relue stated she looks forward to broad discussions and is anxious to see how it works academically.

***Old Business***

None.

***New Business***

None.

***Adjournment***

There being no further business the Council adjourned at 1:52 p.m.