

Graduate Council Minutes November 9, 2010

Present: Jamie Barlowe, Barbaranne Benjamin, Karen Bjorkman, Frank Calzonetti, Wendy Cochrane, Michael Dowd, Mary Ellen Edwards, Brian Fink, Max Funk, Bo Gao, Kay Grothaus, Mohamed Hefzy, Dong-Shik Kim, Jon Kirchhoff, Patricia Komuniecki, Peter Lindquist, Sara Lundquist, Sakui Malakpa, Geoffrey Martin, Azadeh Parvin, Frank Pizza, Susan Pocotte, Randall Ruch, Kathleen Salyers, Dorothea Sawicki, Dianne Smolen, Robert Sullivan, Mark Templin, Hermann Von Grafenstein, Matthew Wikander

Excused: Lawrence Anderson, Michael Bechill (GSA), David Giovannucci, Amira Gohara, Hassan Hassab-Elnaby, Sheryl Milz, Paul Hong, Surya Nauli, Patricia Relue

Absent: John Gaboury, Paul Hong, Wayne Hoss, Anand Kunnathur, Joel Lipman, Joseph Margiotta, Amy Thompson

Call to Order and Roll and Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the September 5, 2010, meeting were approved as amended.

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

Report of the Executive Committee of the Graduate Council

Dr. Mark Templin reminded Council that there will be one ceremony for fall commencement 2010, Saturday, December 18, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. Volunteers for reader and marshal are Dr. Mark Templin and Dr. Thea Sawicki respectively.

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

Dr. Patricia Komuniecki reported that given that our last meeting was cancelled due to the tornado warning, we will cover the topics that had been scheduled for that day. She reported that she had presented the annual report to the graduate faculty on October 20, 2010 and noted that the PowerPoint is posted on the COGS website for those whose schedules prevented them from joining the presentation.

- ***COGS Organization***

President Jacobs met with the Graduate Council at our last meeting on October 5, 2010 at which time GC raised questions about the proposed reorganization to bring the university “Libraries and Learning Systems” under the COGS umbrella. Dr. Komuniecki also had the opportunity for some additional conversation with Dr. Jacobs about that subject as well and was delighted, as was GC, that President Jacobs was very responsive to our concerns, and at the Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees about a month ago, on October 11, 2010, he presented a revised plan for the strategic reorganization that was approved by the BOT. That revised plan shifted the libraries and learning systems into new schools in the new College of Innovative Learning. Thus, the College of Graduate Studies will proceed with its current strategic plan and initiatives.

- ***Budget Update***

As some of you may know, in anticipation of the projected \$7.9M budget shortfall from the State of Ohio due to not receiving the June 2011 subsidy allocation this fiscal year, the colleges have been asked to identify a 1.5% budget reduction. Since COGS had already allocated most of its budget to the academic colleges for tuition scholarships and stipends, that reduction was taken in the ‘administrative’ budget.

Dr. Gold recently stated at Faculty Senate that COGS has an 80% commitment of the budget for tuition and scholarships for FY12. We anticipate that the budget process will start about one month sooner than in the past.

- *Associate Dean Search*

A number of applications were received and we are in the final stages of the search and hope to make an announcement within the week.

- *AY 2008-2010 Catalog*

As mentioned last month, the heavily revised and updated 2006-08 catalog has been under review by the academic college Associate Deans. Dr. Komuniecki was pleased to announce that the information for several colleges has already been sent to Assistant Vice Provost Marcia King-Blandford for uploading to the UT catalog website. We expect that by next week the rest of the updated versions of the catalog from the remaining colleges will be ready to send as well. COGS IT staff will also post this newest version to the COGS website under the current students section.

- *Information Updates*

- Banner Shutdown Dates

As most of you are aware, UT will be switching to Banner 8 in December and will need to shutdown all access to the existing Banner system on the evening of December 23, 2010. It will not be available again until the 28th or 29th. Although the Provost's office will be sending out a memo soon, Dr. Komuniecki thought it important to mention it today as it was just announced this morning at a meeting with IT. COGS will run all the low GPA reports on Wednesday, December 22nd and communicate with the colleges and students by Thursday November 23rd. She encouraged everyone to get final grades in on time so that the students will have accurate information for their programs and financial aid consideration.

- PR Grade Clarification

At an earlier meeting this fall, Dr. Komuniecki had indicated that OBR was focusing on course and degree completion and had issued a document in July 2010 indicating changes in PR grading for multiple term courses. Accordingly, she had encouraged everyone to think about setting term goals for masters and doctoral students so that we could enter a grade of "S" as appropriate. There will be a memo coming out from the Provost's office shortly that explains this in more detail, but the short story is: in multiple term courses like thesis and dissertation hours, PR grades will be reported to the OBR as subsidy generating. "U" grades do not generate subsidy, neither do "W" grades. So, please work with your students to make satisfactory progress each term, and you can enter an "S" grade, or if necessary, a "PR" grade.

- *New Faculty Advisor Resource*

Pleased to announce that there is a new "Advisor 101" resource on the COGS website. You can find it on the Faculty & Staff link. It has all the pertinent information pulled from other links located in one place as a resource for graduate faculty advisors.

- *Breach of ETS GRE Test Security in China*

Tens of thousands of Chinese GRE candidates are now having their overseas education plans put in jeopardy in the United States and Canada. The U.S.-based Educational Testing Service (ETS) decided to cancel all scores awarded in the GRE General Test given on October 23rd on the Chinese mainland because students had been tested using previously used exams. "In an effort to protect the validity of GRE scores", ETS decided to cancel all scores and provide three options for test takers: take a make-up test on November 20th; take the scheduled test on June 11 2011; receive a full refund.

Obviously, this can have a dramatic impact on the applicants from China, and you might want to ensure that your program is aware of this situation. There is even talk of a class action suit by the Chinese students (~24K students were affected).

- *Reminders for Your Students*

December Graduation:

- Degree Audit Emails - Have gone out to masters and doctoral students who applied for December graduation.
- Deadlines - ETD format review deadline was last Friday, November 5, 2010 and final upload deadline is Friday, November 19, 2010.

Professional Development Programs/Workshops:

Recently completed successful sessions for our graduate students have included:

- An ETD Submission Workshop was held on October 28, 2010 and the Echo 360 Lecture capture is on the COGS website. COGS Graduate Assistant, Ms. Elissa Falcone, is assisting with these sessions with Wade Lee from the Library).
- The first Graduate Student Writing Workshop on “Writing toward a Thesis Statement or Research Question” was held October 20th and was facilitated by COGS Graduate Assistant, Ms. Teri Green.
- Two other writing workshops were held last week:
“Conducting the Literature Review” on Wednesday, November 3rd, 4-5pm and
“Resumes and Curriculum Vitas” on Thursday, November 4th.

Please encourage your students to attend as appropriate in the spring term-sessions start again in January.

Information and Discussion Items

Council of Graduate Schools DVD “The Path Forward: Report on the Future of Graduate Education in the United States” released April 2010

Dr. Komuniecki brought to Council a DVD “The Path Forward: A Report on the Future of Graduate Education in the United States” a short video (~10 min). The DVD can be accessed at <http://www.fgereport.org/>. This DVD is a summary of the report prepared by *The Commission on the Future of Graduate Education in the United States* -a joint commission of Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) and Educational Testing Service (ETS) in consultation with a group of university presidents, graduate officials as well as leaders in business and industry. It was released on April 29, 2010 at a forum at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. and the materials made available to graduate colleges during the summer.

The Commission was charged with overseeing a research effort to examine the political, demographic, socioeconomic, educational, and financial trends that impact participation in graduate education. The assumption underlying this work was that the global competitiveness of the United States and capacity for innovation hinges fundamentally on a strong system of graduate education. The 18-member Commission includes university presidents, graduate deans, provosts, industry leaders, and higher education scholars. The Commission guided the development of a report outlining the research findings and recommendations to universities, industry, and policymakers, and will seek to create a national conversation on how to increase graduate degree attainment by all segments of the country's population.

The message from the video is that graduate education has gone global and life does not stop in graduate school. “The Path Forward” addresses these and other issues by stressing the importance and cooperation of the coalition of University-Employer-Government. Employers – articulate needs to graduate community – internships, co-ops, scholarship funding. Government – invest in people at an advanced level and improve visa policies.

Lively discussion ensued after Council viewed the DVD, and Dean Komuniecki also shared several Figures that were derived from the actual report, including ones addressing:

- Highest Degree Attained in 2003 by 1992-1993 Bachelor's Degree Recipients (Figure 2)
- Reasons for Leaving Graduate School (Figure 4)
- Doctoral Completion Rate by Field and Number of Years (Figure 6)

The importance of the role of our alumni as mentors for our graduate students was discussed with a view to seeking additional partnerships with regional businesses and industry for funding and placements, such as we currently do with the Professional Science Master's (PSM) degree in Photovoltaics.

In addition, it was suggested that Council invite Interim Provost William McMillen to come to GC to discuss implications for graduate education with recent shift in the Ohio gubernatorial seat and legislature.

It was suggested that Dean Komuniecki present the DVD to Deans and Senior Leadership, as well as to the Student and Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees with a view to informing them about the important information contained within the Commission report.

Lastly, there was brief discussion of our international agreements in place to recruit a diverse population of graduate students from across the globe. COGS has made an inventory of the current MOU's and is currently vetting these agreements with the Office of Global Initiatives and the Provost.

Standing Committee Reports

None.

Organizational Reports

Report of the Graduate Student Association

None.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Adjournment

There being no further business the Council adjourned at 1:44 p.m.