

**Graduate Council Minutes
March 18, 2008**

Present: Barbaranne Benjamin, Karen Bjorkman, Maria Coleman, Michael Dowd, Jeanne Funk, Mohamed Hefzy, Patricia Komuniecki, Morris Jenkins, Sara Lundquist, Anastasia Mirzoyants, Marietta Morrissey, Patricia Relue, Constantine Theodosiou, Frederick Williams

Absent Excused: Jamie Barlowe, Frank Calzonetti, Hans Gottgens, Ruth Hottell, Joan Kaderavek, Sam Okoroafo, Walter Olson, Danny Pincivero

Absent Unexcused: Donald Beeman (3), Michael Bisesi (3), Dwayne Demedio (3), John Gaboury (5), Wayne Hoss, Susan Martyn (7), Dale Snauwaert (3)

Guests: Lynn Bachelor

The Minutes of the February 12, 2008, meeting were approved.

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

Dr. Theodosiou reported that for the current budget reallocation, his request of \$2.1 million toward tuition waivers is based on needs expressed by colleges. Tuition waivers should provide extra help to the colleges. He has two budget meetings this month, the first scheduled for March 21st and a final meeting on March 27th. Colleges can spend up to 90% of allocations.

Dr. Theodosiou also reported there is movement on review of the Graduate Council Bylaws. A committee including representatives from both campuses met recently and discussed gravitating toward a set of baseline membership guidelines with additional specific criteria as required from colleges/departments. He will report back as further details are developed. As for harmonization of curriculum, he would like to see one committee as an umbrella campus advisory. Dr. Bisesi asked people on the Health Science Campus (HSC) and whether there was preference to keep them separate.

A discussion developed regarding whether the two-campus approach would adequately serve the graduate faculty or curriculum. Each college should have own curricular authority with global oversight by the Curriculum Committee which further checks for duplication and verifies minimum standards for all graduate level courses and programs. Individual departments and colleges initiate their curriculum as they particularly know their needs and accreditation requirements. Some colleges on the Health Science Campus (HSC) may not have a curriculum committee and send proposals to the Graduate Executive Committee (GEC). As the HSC grows, the need for a central curriculum committee becomes even more necessary.

Dr. Michael Dowd acknowledged the exemplary work by Dr. Max Funk last year in initiating these discussions by effectively communicating cultures and laying solid groundwork. Those preliminary efforts have been very helpful to current discussions.

Dr. Dowd stated the Graduate Council Executive Committee (GCEC) was disappointed at not having had an opportunity this semester to meet with the Provost to discuss the budget and tuition waivers.

Information and Discussion Items

Spring Commencement

Dr. Morrissey added for information regarding the commencement and convocation ceremonies, there will be one large commencement ceremony May 3, 2008, for most colleges, with exception of Pharmacy, Medicine and Law. Since there will be no individual recognition of graduates or hooding of doctoral students at this ceremony, this would need to take place in individual college convocations. It is expected shortly that the Provost's Office will be sending a message to students.

Status Update on College of Graduate Studies Dean Search

Dr. Bjorkman reported the committee had met last week to discuss the application review process. Once the deadline passes the committee plans to move quickly to come up with a list of candidates to interview.

Substitute for Dr. Walter Olson on the Graduate Council Executive Committee

Dr. Dowd brought forward for Council's consideration, the need for Dr. Walter Olson's replacement on the GCEC as he is away from campus through the end of this term. Since Dr. Mohamed Hefzy previously received the second largest number of votes and is available, he will serve the remainder of the term. Decision was made by acclamation.

Discussion of Draft Proposal for Dual Credit for MPA

Dr. Dowd stated Political Science has an interesting proposal which was distributed to Council for discussion, and that Dr. Lynn Bachelor is attending today's meeting for input on strengthening and implementing a formal proposal.

Dr. Bachelor informed the Council the objectives of this proposal are to increase enrollment of quality graduate students and reduce cost and time for completing the master's degree. It provides additional incentives for our top undergraduates to enroll in our graduate programs. There are three courses in the core requirements of masters that exist in 4000-level, and we are looking at origins to develop a mechanism for students in this program to complete the graduate requirements of the courses and have it count toward both degrees. Other universities have similar programs and this arrangement would work well for smaller programs such as the MPA.

A discussion developed regarding issues related to such a program. Dr. Relue stated there exists a program utilizing this format, the BS/MS program in Engineering, of which nine hours of their program require enrollment at the 5000-level. Dr. Komuniecki said we were trying to do away with slash courses and the major concern would be with dual credit at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Dr. Hefzy mentioned there are also financial issues including paying for such courses at the graduate level. Dr. Benjamin asked if there would be cap on the number of graduate level hours allowed. Dr. Bachelor replied the limit would three courses to equal nine hours.

Dr. Lundquist cautioned of the possibility of students outside the field being disadvantaged.

Dr. Theodosiou added this type of arrangement occurs in Business. Dr. Dowd also added that given there is a precedent perhaps there could be development on a broader base. This is a great opportunity move students from undergraduate to graduate and is an effective recruiting tool.

Dr. Bachelor replied there would be a limit of three courses equaling nine hours. She noted that nine hours also applies to transfer hours under the current graduate admission Special Student Status and does not view there being a significant disadvantage to other students to coming in.

Organizational Reports

Report of the Graduate Student Association

Ms. Anastasia Mirzoyants, Vice President of the Graduate Student Association (GSA), reported GSA submitted a budget request for the next year on time, therefore, the organization expects to receive if not a budget raise but at least to reclaim the money that we lost in 2007. GSA continues to work on the Graduate Symposium, which is tentatively scheduled for May 14-15, 2008. The symposium is planned to become an annual event that will give graduate students from the Main and Health Science campuses an opportunity to become familiar with others' research, will allow faculty to promote their research, and can eventually become a signature event for GSA. A working group has been meeting on a weekly basis to develop the project. The GSA also asks the faculty for support in restructuring participation in the organization. Right now they do not have any graduate student members who are required to participate in monthly meetings, therefore, there is a huge turnover in participation, which obstructs the development of GSA into a stronger, more powerful organization. We would like a volunteer faculty on each department to assist in holding a GSA-representatives election in September, so that those elected representatives are required to promote GSA by participating in monthly meetings and informing their department colleagues. The Next GSA meeting will be April 14, 2008, 6:30-8pm, Nitschke Hall, Room 1027.

Suggestions were made to Ms. Mirzoyants for refining the symposium proposal including: adding the Sciences, highlight a couple of areas, match up keynote speakers to them and build sessions around those areas. Dr. Dowd suggested departmental graduate advisors as being a good source to provide assistance to the GSA in identifying graduate student representatives.

Dr. Hefzy asked whether there would continue to be separate Graduate Student Associations on each campus or if there would be one organization. Dr. Theodosiou said it would be preferable to have one.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Adjournment

There being no further business the Council adjourned at 1:38 p.m.