

**Graduate Council Minutes**  
**January 8, 2013**  
**12:30 – 2:00 p.m.**  
**Health Science Campus, Health Education Building, Room 103**

Present: Brian Ashburner, James Benjamin, Michael Dowd for David Black, Amanda Bryant-Friedrich, Mary Ellen Edwards, Max Funk, David Giovannucci, Kay Grothaus, Mohamed Samir Hefzy, Wayne, Hoss, Ruth Hottell, Junghwan Kim, Patricia Komuniecki, Anand Kunnathur, Joseph Margiotta, Monica McKnight, Holly Monsos, Surya Nauli, Douglas Nims, Lori Pakulski, Nick Piazza, Frank Pizza, Patricia Relue, Dorothea Sawicki, Constance Schall, Rebecca Schneider, Susan Sochacki, William Taylor, Mark Templin, Gerard Thompson, Joshua Waldman, Kandace Williams

Excused: Barbaranne Benjamin, Paul Hong, David Jex, Susan Pocotte, Cynthia Smas

Absent: Timothy Fisher, Charlene Gilbert, Hassan HassabElnaby, Renee Heberle, Ruth Hottell, Sara Lundquist, Timothy Mueser, Randall Ruch, Snejana Slantcheva-Durst, James Trempe, James Willey

***Call to Order, Roll Call, and Approval of Minutes***

The meeting was called to order by Mark Templin and the roll called. The Minutes of the December 11, 2012 will be distributed at the next meeting.

***Executive Reports***

**Report of the Graduate Student Association (GSA)**

Mr. Joshua Waldman, GSA President, reported on the 2012 GSA budget. In 2012, the beginning budget was \$157,376. The total expenditures for 2012 were \$40,983 which left a balance of \$116,392 to be carried over for spring. Spring semester will bring estimated expenses of \$111,000. This will leave a balance of approximately \$4,500. The largest expense of spring will be the Midwest Research Graduate Symposium. The symposium is accepting registrations for presenters, judges and volunteers. Mr. Waldman mentioned that judges are needed for the symposium which is scheduled for April 20, 2013, and he welcomed and encouraged the Graduate Council Members to participate as judges. He reported that they have received many registrations for presenters. The numbers are up from last year.

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

Dean Komuniecki provided the following updates:

- ***Enrollment and Admissions Updates***

The Spring 2013 Enrollment reported generated yesterday on the first day of spring term indicates that overall graduate enrollments are up 2.67% and the graduate FTE is up 0.88% (in contrast undergraduate enrollments are down ~6.8%). Please be sure that all your graduate students are fully registered for spring courses.

As you know, COGS is entering the very busy application season for Fall 2013 with most of the program deadlines in January and February. We already have processed 1,885 applications, and expect to hit about 4,000 before we are through.

- ***Budget Update***

No news on the budget distributions for FY14 yet-but the special budget committee will be discussing the COGS request to release the stipend and tuition scholarship budget with the President within the coming week.

- *Announcements*

Applications for COGS Fellowships, Scholarships and Awards are all due February 8, 2013.

- University Fellowships

Please have your best applicants apply for this prestigious fellowship. This has been used as a recruitment tool in the past to attract top students to UT.

- Diversity Fellowships

Please encourage any qualified applicants to apply for the GOAP and McNair Scholar Awards.

- Awards for Current Graduate Students

There are three different awards: (Fields, Buell and Whiteford) for which current students can apply. These students will be recognized at the last GC meeting of spring term. All the descriptions and applications are available on the COGS website under the current graduate student link.

- *Points of Pride*

Dean Komuniecki provided some recent recognitions and placements for several young alums of our graduate programs:

**Dr. John Wisniewski** earned both his master's and doctoral degrees in astrophysics at UT and is currently an Assistant Professor of astronomy at The University of Oklahoma. He is part of an international team of astronomers that recently reported the discovery of a new planet with a mass 13X that of Jupiter! He commented that his training on the Ritter telescope prepared him well for his analysis.

Several Higher Ed doctoral students have recently been appointed to new positions:

**Dr. Kim Grieve** was named Dean of Students at the University of South Dakota.

**Dr. Karen Graham** has joined the physician assistant faculty at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

And several have accepted appointments at Ohio higher education institutions:

**Dr. Cam Cruickshank** has been named as the Interim Vice Provost for Enrollment Management at UT.

**Dr. Corey Stine** is the Director of Admissions at Owens Community College.

**Dr. Vicky Wood** has been named as the Dean of Business and Information Technology at Marion Technical College and Dr. Bob Haas is her Associate Dean.

**Dr. Lindsay English** is the new Dean of Academic Affairs at the Metropolitan Campus at Cuyahoga County Community College District.

**Dr. Carol Schwartz** will be the Associate chair for Undergraduate Education and;

**Dr. Christine Knaggs** will be a faculty member at nearby Lourdes University.

Please share information about graduate students in your programs with COGS.

#### Report of the Executive Committee of the Graduate Council

Dr. Nick Piazza, Graduate Council (GC) Chair, presented the report on behalf of the Executive Committee.

Dr. Piazza mentioned that last year applications to a number of graduate degree programs that had been suspended and the question pertaining to adequate notice as well as faculty involvement in the decisions to suspend applications. Dr. Piazza met with the Provost last semester and informed him that the degree programs in question had been reinstated and that, in the future, more open and transparent processes will be used before such actions are undertaken. They also discussed that formal policies and procedures for furloughing, suspending, or terminating a program were lacking. Both the Provost and the Chancellor stated that they saw the need for such policies and procedures and expressed a willingness to work with the Graduate Council and the Faculty Senate to develop and introduce such policies and procedures.

Precisely what happened and how the decision to suspend applications was implemented is under investigation by Vice Provost Tom Gutteridge. The results of this investigation are not yet complete. Hopefully, the Provost will be able to address this issue when he meets with the Graduate Council at the next meeting.

It appears that after some initial hesitation, the University Council has started to gain some traction. The Board of Trustees approved the creation of a University Council last year; however, implementation has been delayed for about six months. There is an approved constitution for the University Council. The purpose and function of the University Council has yet to be articulated in any detail, but it looks as if the University Council will function as the primary channel for communication with the Board of Trustees.

The relationship between the University Council and the Graduate Council, Faculty Senate, Research Council, and other governance bodies has yet to be specified. The GCEC intends to be involved in this process and may be calling on members of Graduate Council to participate in the process at some later date.

A second item relates to strategic planning on the Main Campus. For the past couple of months, Provost Scarborough has been conducting focus group meetings to help him revise and update the UT strategic plan. This has resulted in a revised Main Campus strategic plan entitled *Imagine 2017*. You all should have been provided with a link to this document when the announcements for today's meeting went out.

There are a number of provisions in this document that potentially could have a profound impact on graduate education. The hope is that we can identify our concerns and translate these into questions and hopefully addressed by Provost Scarborough at our next meeting.

### ***Information and Discussion Items***

#### Discussion of New Main Campus Strategic Plan, *Imagine 2017*

Dr. Nick Piazza shared the *Imagine 2017* PowerPoint presentation from the office of Provost Scott Scarborough. This strategic plan proposes the creation of a number of avenues to which he refers as portals or avenues to be utilized for bringing students into the university. The suggested portals are:

- Portal for well-prepared students: Honors College
- Portal for prepared and under-prepared students: University College
- Portal for adult students: College of Adult Professionals
- Portal for online students: UTXNET World Campus
- Portal for graduate and advanced professional students: Graduate College

The following 10 solutions are taken from the *Imagine 2017* document:

1. Name, enhance, market, and enlarge UT's Honors College to create a recognizable high-quality sub-brand within The University of Toledo and thereby enlarge the pipeline of well-prepared students into the university's wide array of undergraduate and advanced degree programs. Encourage honors students to complete their undergraduate degree in three years and begin advanced degree programs at the beginning of their fourth year.
2. Feature experiential learning (internship, co-op, service learning, study abroad, undergraduate research, simulation) for all students to enhance student learning and employability. Partner with Digerati to increase experiential learning capacity and support.
3. Create UTXNET World Campus to advance the branding and delivery of web-based educational content, the effective use of academic technology in all learning environments, and the awarding of competency-based college credit. Partner with Apple Higher Education to achieve these outcomes. Engage faculty in this work.
4. Use UTXNET World Campus to increase the number of hybrid courses, flipped classrooms, and international digital connections inside and outside UT classrooms.
5. Recreate University College as a portal for prepared and under- prepared students and team it with UTXNET to cost-effectively improve student success rates.

6. Keep tuition and fees at current rates in FY 14 and discount housing to achieve strategic retention and recruitment goals.
7. Improve the student experience by improving all student “moments of truth,” starting with campus visits, academic advising, student life, and university traditions and campus spirit. Engage students in this work.
8. Convert Lecturers to Assistant, Associate, and full Professors of Practice with 3- to 5-year renewable contracts and 9- to 12-month annual employment terms.
9. Step 1. Reduce administrative overhead.  
  
Step 2. Increase instructional productivity in all academic units; provide additional support for increased teaching productivity (e.g., TAs, academic advisors, team teaching, new instructional technologies).  
  
Step 3. Streamline degree programs and course offerings; reengineer academic administration, student affairs, and academic support functions.  
  
Step 4. Implement a college incentive funding formula for capital funds.  
  
Step 5. Adopt a new faculty hiring plan to account for faculty retirements over the next few years.  
  
Step 6. Use technology to enable student self-service.
10. Divide JHCOEHSHS into three colleges: Education, Health Sciences, and Criminal Justice and Human Services. Create a new college: College of Communication.  
  
Make institutional investments in three interdisciplinary schools: Healthcare Business Enterprise & Innovation, Green Chemistry and Advanced Renewable Energy, and Biomarkers and Advanced Simulation.  
  
Use University Council to foster a new spirit of university teamwork and to improve responsiveness to the needs of internal and external stakeholders.

Dr. Piazza asked that Council members please formulate and email the questions that they have concerning this strategic plan to him. The questions will then be submitted to Provost Scarborough.

### ***Standing Committee Reports***

#### **Report of the Membership Committee**

Dr. Nick Piazza welcomed Dr. Hefzy back to the Council from his recent leave from campus. Dr. Hefzy reported that there are approximately 50-55 graduate faculty membership applications to review in next few weeks.

#### **Report of the Curriculum Committee**

Dr. Patricia Relue reported on behalf of the Curriculum Committee. The committee will meet concerning the following:

- New Program Proposals -1
- Program Requirement Revisions -4
- New Course Proposals -4
- Existing Graduate Course Modifications -9

***Old Business***

None.

***New Business***

Hopefully, students will receive some financial forgiveness with the add/drop due to recent computer issues.

***Adjournment***

There being no further business the Council adjourned at 2:04 p.m. Dr. Hefzy motion to close; Dr. Patricia Relue seconded.