

Graduate Council Minutes
April 5, 2011
12:30 – 2:00 p.m.
Main Campus, Student Union, Room 2582

Present: Lawrence Anderson, Brian Ashburner, Karen Bjorkman, Frank Calzonetti, Wendy Cochrane, Michael Dowd, Mary Ellen Edwards, Brian Fisher, Max Funk, Mohamed Hefzy, Wayne Hoss, Dong-Shik Kim, Jon Kirchhoff, Anand Kunnathur, Peter Lindquist, Joel Lipman, Sara Lundquist, Holly Monsos, Surya Nauli, Azadeh Parvin, Susan Pocotte, Patricia Relue, Linda Rouillard, Randall Ruch, Kathleen Salyers, Dorothea Sawicki, Mark Templin, Hermann Von Grafenstein, Joshua Waldman (GSA)

Excused: Barbaranne Benjamin, Kay Grothaus, Hassan Hassab-Elnaby, Patricia Komuniecki, Joseph Margiotta, Sheryl Milz, Francis Pizza, Dianne Smolen

Absent: James Benjamin, Jamie Barlowe, David Giovannucci, Amira Gohara, Paul Hong, Benjamin Pryor, Amy Thompson

Call to Order and Roll

Executive Reports

Report of the Executive Committee of the Graduate Council

Dr. Mark Templin reported that the GCEC had met on March 29th and two main issues were discussed. The first was that the Midwest Research Symposium was a huge success. Mr. Bechill, President of the GSA, will describe the results in detail in Information and Discussion section of today's meeting. The second was that the new colleges that experienced structural change are having difficulty conducting elections for their Graduate Council representatives by April 15th. To provide a little more time for these colleges, the GCEC plans to hold the election of new Council on May 3rd.

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

At the request of Dean Komuniecki, Dr. Susan Pocotte, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, in the College of Graduate Studies presented the report since Dr. Patricia Komuniecki is out of the country on behalf of the University. Dr. Pocotte and Dr. Thea Sawicki attended the annual Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) meeting from March 30th – April 1st. The association includes faculty and administrators who administer graduate programs at public and private Midwest universities. The associate deans attended for the first time and learned about key issues affecting graduate programs. MAGS aligns with the national organization, the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS). They attended seminars and round table discussions regarding numerous topics concerning graduate education.

- *MAGS Discussion Topics Included:*
 - Accreditation HLC- new process
 - Assessment of student learning outcomes

- Developing overarching Graduate Learning Outcomes
- Assessment of Program quality
- Creating strategic partnerships and alliances to advance graduate education
- Program Review
- Fund raising
- Challenges of administration of graduate programs
- Electronic Testing Service – GRE and TOEFL
- The path forward in Graduate Education

Additional information will be presented to Graduate Faculty over the next few months. Dr. Pocotte will present some updates on GRE today and Dr. Sawicki will present some information to the Graduate Council on April 19, 2011.

- *Electronic Testing Service –GRE*

Information from the MAGS seminars, ETS printed materials and ETS web site.

The new GRE test will be launched in August 2011. The changes to the test include the following:

- New content more closely aligned with the skills candidate
- Verbal Reasoning Measure
- Quantitative Reasoning Measure
- Analytical Writing Measure
- Changes for the test taker –“friendlier, more flexible experience”

In addition to the test content changes, there will be changes to test scoring. The following summarizes the new scales as opposed to current (soon to be “old”) scale:

- Verbal reasoning scores
130-170 scale in 1-point increments (old 200-800 scale in 10 point increments)
- Quantitative reasoning scores
130-170 in 1-point increments (old 200-800 scale in 10 point increments)
- Analytical writing scores
0-6 scale in half-point increments (same as old)

The timeline of implementation is:

- March 15, 2011- First day of registration for revised test
- August 1, 2011- First day of testing for revised test
- August- September- For tests taken, scores reported early to mid-November
- October-November- For tests taken, check the ETS/GRE web site for a detailed score reporting schedule.
- December- Score reporting returns to regular reporting period (10-15 days after test date)
- The major implications for programs with admissions deadlines for Spring 2012 and that need the GRE score before November are that potential applicants should be advised to take the old exam before August 1, 2011.

How are the new GRE scores reported? There is a new report format. Please see the ETS website for an illustration http://www.ets.org/s/gre/pdf/institution_score_report.pdf.

The new report format will include the following information:

- Prior scale for Administrations before August 1, 2011
- Estimated scores on the new scale for administrations before August 1, 2011
- Current format for Administration after August 1, 2011
- Percentiles based on the most recent three year period
- A “concordance table” for prior and current score scales is in preparation.

What should you be doing?

- Inform the faculty, program directors, admissions committees, chairs, advisors
 - Monitor the COGS website for updates
<http://www.utoledo.edu/graduate/facultystaff/index.html> or at
 - Go directly to the www.ets.org/gre for updates, webinars
http://www.takethegre.com/email/eupdate/GRE_eUpdate_Web_February2011.html.
 - Change admissions criteria to be congruent with the new scales if you have minimum standards.
- *COGS Graduate Program Review Process*
Dr. Pocotte provided an update on the COGS Program Review process she is coordinating. The Doctoral programs are undergoing review during spring and summer 2011 and the Masters programs review will begin in summer 2011 and be completed in fall 2011. The review is necessary, because:
 - It is mandated by the Ohio Board of Regents
 - The Constitution of the Graduate Faculty and Bylaws of the Graduate Council mandate periodic graduate program review.
 - It is part of the College of Graduate Studies assessment required by the Higher Learning Commission accreditation self study process.
 - Significant metric/measurement for the Directions 2011 Goal 2 sub-goals.

Dr. Pocotte explained that the goal of the doctoral program review is to identify areas of excellence/strength/weakness to better allocate fiscal resources (stipends/tuition scholarships) as part of continuous quality review of The University of Toledo’s graduate programs. The current process is intended to focus on QUALITY issues. The data collected will provide a baseline snap shot of current doctoral programs. The data collection will be modified for continuing review cycles to capture data required for a more fine-tuned outcome evaluation.

The process outlined:

1. Initiated by COGS/Graduate Council
2. COGS gathered data for 3 academic years (AY 07-08, 08-09, 09-10) from Institutional Research (IR) (almost done)
Colleges (due April 14, 2011)
COGS data bases (almost done)
3. COGS shared data with the Colleges for verification of accuracy, and correction.
4. COGS provided data to GC Program Review Committee
5. Program Review Committee evaluation of data and recommends an ‘outcome’
6. Reports written by COGS and Reviewed by GC Program Review Committee.
7. The individual College to review/respond to reports before finalized.

8. Reports/recommendation sent to UT Provost.

All data is correlated to various sub-goals, metrics and measurements of Directions 2011 Goal 2. The IR data includes enrollment data, GRE scores, GPA scores, student demographic data, tuition, graduation data, and student financial support information. The College data includes program faculty demographics and numbers, student financial support, student scholarship, student placement information, and program accreditation and/or ranking information. The COGS data includes student financial support information not provided by the other two data sets and is a comparative model from OSU.

The proposed program evaluation outcomes are:

- High quality doctoral programs- that stand out in terms of overall quality, planning, focus, and have the potential to enhance the standing of the University.
- Strong doctoral programs- that are noted for their strength and potential to enhance the reputation of the University, but may need to address aspects of program focus or structure.
- Good doctoral programs- that doing reasonably well and appear to have viable plans for moving ahead.
- New and/or Developing programs- which may be too new or not fully developed for complete assessment. Data will serve as baseline for next cycle of review.
- Reassess and/or restructure- Doctoral programs with significant problems in terms of their current structure or mission in connection with other programs.
- Disinvestment or elimination- Doctoral programs that have significant problems and are candidates for disinvestments unless solid plans for addressing their problems are developed.

Dr. Dowd asked to what extent this committee been discussed at the GCEC. Should we contact College Councils for those nominations, a mix of master's and doctoral program representatives?

Dr. Pocotte recalled members being mentioned at the GCEC. She also asked that she be contacted with any concerns or issues.

Information and Discussion Items

Midwest Graduate Student Research Symposium Update

Mr. Joshua Waldman, Vice President of the Graduate Student Association (GSA), represented the GSA since Mr. Michael Bechill, President of the GSA could not attend. He provided a report on the success of the Midwest Graduate Student Research Symposium.

- There were 175 presenters, representing 11 universities and 20 different UT departments (from english/literature to biomedical sciences and mathematics). Looking to continue to grow at same rate.
- Over 250 participants and spectators. We had great participation from non-participants as one of our goals was to involve local high school students and other community members. We had a local high school teacher and student speak on their experiences creating an electric truck. They spoke on the importance of collaboration between academics and business as well as inter-disciplinary collaboration.
- Keynote Speaker

- Dr. Lonnie Thompson, world-renowned paleoclimatologist, and member of the National Academy of Science.
- Donation/ Contributions
 - Total Cost of Symposium was approximately \$6,000
 - Currently compiling a list of all contributions and donations
 - Thank you COGS without them not possible
 - Diversity Grant
 - Private Investors (P212121)
 - Individual Donations
 - Department Donations
 - Web site will be updated with all contributors
 - Starting to raise funds for 2012 immediately
- Event Evaluation
 - Students and judges were asked to fill out the evaluation available on the GSA website.
 - Future Direction
 - Currently setting the date for next year and creating individualized major/thesis judge rubrics.
 - Creating Individualized Major/Thesis Oral Sessions (such as round table discussions instead of power points)
 - Will need major faculty input ASAP to start making these changes
 - We do not want to be known as a science conference
 - PR and advertising in house (within UT; describe what was done, get ideas for next year, top to Bottom does not work)

Standing Committee Reports

Report of the Membership Committee

None.

Report of the Curriculum Committee

None.

Organizational Reports

Report of the Graduate Student Association

Mr. Joshua Waldman, Vice President of the Graduate Student Association, reported that the GSA's new web domain is www.utoledogsa.com. Results of the GSA 2011 Elections will be added to our website per the following timeline. Nominations are open: April 1, 2011 and due April 15, 2011. Online elections start April 18, 2011 and will end May 2, 2011. New officers will be announced May 3, 2011.

Additional information will be provided on changes to the Travel Reimbursement Program as details are finalized. The GSA continues to seek adequate office space with some scheduled hours so that it will become an active center for graduate students.

Graduate student organizations from other universities have contacted the UT GSA to emulate its organization and practices. For example, Wayne State has a graduate population similar to UT and is using UT GSA as their template to create a general assembly and travel reimbursement program. Additionally, other universities (Akron, Cincinnati, and Youngstown) are modeling UT GSA.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Adjournment

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