

**Graduate Council Minutes  
January 11, 2011**

**12:30 – 2:00 p.m.  
Health Science Campus  
Dana Conference Center, Williams Defiance Room**

Present: Lawrence Anderson, Michael Bechill, Barbaranne Benjamin, Frank Calzonetti, Wendy Cochrane, Michael Dowd, Brian Fink, Timothy Fisher, David Giovannucci, Kay Grothaus, Mohamed Hefzy, Wayne Hoss, Jon Kirchhoff, Patricia Komuniecki, Peter Lindquist, Joseph Margiotta, Sheryl Milz, Sura Nauli, Azadeh Parvin, Frank Pizza, Susan Pocotte, Patricia Relue, Charles Rop, Kathleen Salyers, Dorothea Sawicki, Dianne Smolen, Robert Sullivan, Mark Templin, Joshua Waldman (GSA)

Absent: Mary Ellen Edwards, Amira Gohara, Paul Hong, Dong-Shik Kim, Sara Lundquist, Amy Thompson, Hermann Von Grafenstein

Excused: Jamie Barlowe, Karen Bjorkman, Max Funk, Anand Kunnathur, Debra Pasch, Hassan HassabElnaby, Azadeh Parvin, Randall Ruch

Guests: Ms. Diane Miller

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

The Minutes of the October 5, 2010 and the November 9, 2010 meetings were approved.

***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 the Graduate Council (GC) that judges are still needed for the 2011 Midwest Graduate Research Symposium on March 26, 2011. He reported that recent university restructuring necessitates editorial changes to by Graduate Council Bylaws and to the Graduate Faculty Constitution so that they are in alignment. In addition, the changes are needed so that adequate representation is determined before we begin the elections process to Graduate Council. The Graduate Council Executive Committee (GCEC) will prepare a draft and bring to Graduate Council for review.

In order to accommodate the schedules of today's guests at the Council meeting, Dr. Templin requested that Agenda Item C – Information and Discussion Items, Federal Funding and Congressional Earmarks for Higher Education and Research, be moved next in the order.

***Information and Discussion Items***

Federal Funding and Congressional Earmarks for Higher Education and Research

In a power point presentation, Ms. Diane Miller, Associate Director of Incubation and Director of Federal Initiatives in the Office of Research and Innovation at UT provided an overview of what the new, 112th Congress means to UT's research programs. Ms. Miller provided an overview of the changes in the new Congress pointing out the Senate remains as a Democratic majority but that the House of Representatives changed from a Democratic majority to a Republican majority. This change is important to UT because the new Republican House will not support earmark requests and their position on budget cutting may affect the

budgets of agencies that support scientific research, such as the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

Ms. Miller explained that UT had over \$18 million in federal appropriation bills dedicated for UT related projects for FY11, but that of the funding for these projects was eliminated when the Omnibus Bill did not pass. She explained that the federal government is operating on a Continuing Resolution (CR) through March 4th that includes no funds for congressionally directed projects. Given that it is still not clear how the federal government will be funded for the remainder of this fiscal year, federal agencies are not in a position to commit funds to projects. Ms. Miller explained that she and Vice President Calzonetti are working with Van Scoyoc Associates in Washington to work directly with the agencies on the funding of UT projects and that it is important for faculty members leading those projects to reach out to their program officers in this effort.

Copies of the article "Rev the Scientific Engine" by George F. Will as published in the Washington Post Sunday, January 2, 2011 were distributed by Dr. Frank Calonzetti.

Dr. Dowd asked for clarification whether the cuts are only scaling back to the 2009 budget, which had been doubled for the FY10 budget by ARRA stimulus funding. Dr. Hoss pointed out that decreases in the federal budget also impact funding for our research budget from agencies such as NIH and NSF. Ms. Miller indicated she did not expect a change in posture and perhaps a second FY11 CR around March 4<sup>th</sup>, and that we may even need to look toward September for actual appropriations to occur. Dr. Komuniecki suggested inviting Dr. Calzonetti to speak to Council on this topic again in March. Dr. Calzonetti also pointed out that without federal funding for UT projects, funding for graduate students may be affected.

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

Dr. Patricia Komuniecki greeted Council by wishing everyone a happy new year as we start the spring 2011 term. With a guest presentation and curriculum committee business on the agenda today, Dr. Komuniecki indicated her report would be brief. First and foremost, she expressed her delight to share some good news - the successful conclusion to our search for an Associate Dean.

- *Associate Dean Search*

Dr. Komuniecki asked Council to join her in congratulating Dr. Susan Pocotte from the College of Nursing on her appointment as the first Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for the College of Graduate Studies. Dr. Pocotte is the immediate past-chair of Graduate Council and she served as the co-convener for the Goal 2 Strategic Directions workgroup last year as well. Thus, she is very familiar with the important issues in graduate education at The University of Toledo. Dr. Pocotte assumed her post, a 50% appointment, on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. She has already begun working on the doctoral program review that we are conducting this year and will take the leadership on that project as well as the master's program review next year. In addition, she will be actively involved in assessment of graduate programs and will assist Dr. Komuniecki in the HLC accreditation process as it relates to graduate education. Since she has served on the Criterion 2 team already, she is well poised for that responsibility as well.

- *Budget Updates*

Last fall all the colleges were asked to submit a 1.5% budget reduction for the current FY11 fiscal year. Dr. Komuniecki was pleased to report that although the COGS 'target figure' was \$366,174, in the end, our proposal to reduce the COGS budget by \$16,764 was certified by the Budget Office. Although formal budget guidelines for FY12 have not yet been received, Dr. Komuniecki briefly summarized where things stand at the moment:

The President made major remarks about the budget situation in his Friday report and yesterday's UTimes (1/10/11) had an article that outlined the budget process for FY12. There will be a new Budget Formulation Workgroup to be chaired by Mr. Chuck Lehnert that includes Mr. David Cutri, Mr. David Dabney, Dr. Tim Gaspar, Ms. Joely Giammarco, Dr. Mary Powers, Mr. William Logie, Ms. Joyce

McBride and Ms. Michele Martinez. This task force will work parallel to and simultaneously with the familiar process of budget hearings for colleges and units.

Dr. Komuniecki expects that the colleges will get a timeline for the budget hearings soon, but as you may recall, until the budget hearings and the task force recommendations are complete, the College of Graduate Studies is currently only guaranteed 80% of the existing FY11 budget. Hence, as dean, Dr. Komuniecki has been working with the academic colleges to ensure that we are using available stipend and tuition dollars wisely.

Accordingly, COGS will be enforcing the existing guidelines regarding funding for graduate students. Namely, that master's students can expect up to two years of funding if their GPA is 3.0 or above and they are making solid progress toward the degree. Similarly, doctoral students can typically expect up to 5 years of funding, as long as they maintain their GPA and progress toward degree completion. Obviously, some doctoral programs require shorter time frames, and others may require more, and COGS will work with the colleges to address those issues. Dr. Komuniecki urged Council members for their assistance by ensuring that full-time graduate students, doctoral students in particular, are registered full-time (12 credit hours). She reminded Council that the State of Ohio has changed the subsidy formula to phase in subsidy return to USO institutions based on course and degree completion rather than headcount. In addition, we probably won't be able to support the \$53 subsidy toward graduate student health insurance. A lot of creativity is needed.

At the present time, the State has projected an \$8B shortfall in the FY12 budget, and UT needs to prepare for possible serious reductions from the state. UT anticipates budgetary increases from increased utility costs (~ \$20M) and also increases to cover union and healthcare commitments [close up here]The loss of stimulus funding could mean an \$18M shortfall, and the loss of earmarks could be another \$7-15M shortfall, thus UT could face serious budget reductions to cover these deficits. The finance folks are looking at all areas. It was noted that our neighboring institutions, BGSU and Owens, have finished balancing their budgets with shortfalls much less than UT is anticipating. They are trying to recruit more fee-paying students.

In addition, another new committee, the Revenue Enhancement and Innovation/Entrepreneurial Initiatives Committee, has been established to seek possible revenue enhancements to offset possible budget reductions. That committee is chaired by Dr. Tom Gutteridge, and committee members include Dr. Nagi Naganathan, Dr. Johnnie Early and Mr. Kevin Kucera, Ms. Brenda Grant, Ms. Marcia Culling, Dr. John Barrett and Mr. Tom Biggs.

Dr. Komuniecki anticipates she will have more to report in this area by our next GC meeting.

Dr. Komuniecki encouraged Council to share with her their create revenue enhancement ideas. She announced that Ms. Mary Main, formerly a Business Services Officer I in the COGS office, is now a Business Manager.

*Council Discussion:*

Dr. Dowd pointed out that there is not a representative from academic affairs on the Budget Formulation Workgroup and said that Faculty Senate has already requested such.

Mr. Michael Bechill expressed concern over the potential loss of federal funding diminishing the research enterprise.

Council members discussed the expectation that UT will reexamine its services and possible realignment of programs within their own colleges.

- *January Orientation*

Last week COGS introduced a new online orientation for our January entrants welcoming 224 new graduate students using a variety of online modules: video and audio presentations, pdf documents, PowerPoints and web links with essential information.

Here's the college breakdown of the new admits:

Main Campus:

College of Business Innovation	91 (including 81 students in the new MBA in India cohort)
Judith Herb College of Education	44
College of Engineering	41
College of Health Science and Human Service	18
College of Arts & Sciences	15

Health Science Campus:

College of Medicine	8
College of Nursing	6
College of Pharmacy	1

The student evaluations were overwhelmingly positive for this new approach. Dr. Komuniecki asked for suggestions from faculty and graduate students for our orientation program, and requested that they be sent to Ms. Tammy Oelkrug in the COGS office as we are already in the middle of planning the face-to-face fall 2011 orientation program.

- *Professional Development*

As a reminder, COGS has 6 programs planned for this spring semester. The schedule is posted on the COGS website, but the next one entitled "Strategies for Success: Meeting the Challenges of Graduate Student Life" will be held on Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup> in the Student Union 2592 from 12-1 pm. COGS has not yet completed the analysis of all the evaluations from the 8 professional development programs and workshops that were held in fall 2010 but we can state that the response was again overwhelmingly positive with positive responses 90% and above for the Career Development, Graduate Writing and the ETD workshops hit a 99% positive response! So, please do encourage your students to take a look at our offerings for spring.

- *Enrollment Updates*

The most recent figures before the start of term indicated that graduate headcount was almost flat (-0.7%) but that graduate FTE was still positive at 2.1%. We expect new enrollment figures very soon and to be able to make a complete breakdown at the next GC meeting. Associate Deans should double check that their new and continuing students have actually registered and that the data reported by Institutional Research match college figures.

- *Strategic Planning*

As a final note regarding the Directions 2011 document, it is posted on the UT homepage, and yesterday was presented to the BOT Strategic Planning Committee. Thanks to all the Goal 2 committee members with special thanks to Dr. Susan Pocotte, Dr. Thea Sawicki and Dr. Barbaranne Benjamin for their extra efforts on the Goal 2 draft.

Dr. Pocotte remarked that the Board of Trustees had revisited the final draft of the Strategic Directions document at its meeting yesterday and that the document runs to about 40 pages instead of 60. The President indicated there is still time for input up until 5:00 p.m. today.

## ***Standing Committee Reports***

### Membership Committee

Dr. Mohamed Hefzy, Membership Committee chair, reported the committee was in the process of reviewing approximately 22 applications for Special Membership from Wright State University as part of the collaborative UT/WSU Doctor of Nursing Practice program.

#### Curriculum Committee

Dr. Patricia Relue, Curriculum Committee chair, presented the recommendations of the Graduate Curriculum Committee. Council approved unanimously. The committee will meet on a bi-monthly basis for the remainder of the academic year. Due to the de-activation of the Curriculum Tracking System, curricular proposals should be submitted via hard copy to the College of Graduate Studies office. If sending via email as well, please direct to the attention of Ms. Terri Hayes and copy Dr. Patricia Relue. Proposals will be posted the Graduate Council website so their status is known.

[see attached chart]

#### ***Organizational Reports***

##### Report of the Graduate Student Association

Mr. Michael Bechill, President of the Graduate Student Association (GSA) reported progress in multiple areas of the Midwest Graduate Research Symposium:

- Online student registration is up and running.
- A new option this year is online registration for judges.
- The Memorial Field House has been reserved for the symposium and a banquet hall in the Student Union will be used for the keynote address and dinner.
- The GSA is working to establish an account that will allow people to donate to the Midwest Graduate Research Symposium through official channels.

The following areas are still in progress:

- Obtain a committed keynote speaker
- Secure more judges and students to registrants. The registration deadline is February 4, 2011.
- Secure additional volunteers and sponsors.

The GSA welcomes advertising support and any other ideas or assistance to help make this event a success.

#### ***Old Business***

None.

#### ***New Business***

None.

#### ***Adjournment***

There being no further business the Council adjourned at 2:04 p.m.