

Graduate Council Minutes
March 22, 2011

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

- Present: Lawrence Anderson, Brian Ashburner, Jamie Barlowe, Michael Bechill (GSA), Barbaranne Benjamin, James Benjamin, Wendy Cochrane, Michael Dowd, Mary Ellen Edwards, Brian Fink, David Giovannucci, Kay Grothaus, Hassan Hassab-Elnaby, Mohamed Hefzy, Jon Kirchhoff, Patricia Komuniecki, Peter Lindquist, Joseph Margiotta, Sheryl Milz, Holly Monsos, Surya Nauli, Azadeh Parvin, Frank Pizza, Susan Pocotte, Patricia Relue, Charles Rop, Linda Rouillard, Randall Ruch, Kathleen Salyers, Dorothea Sawicki, Dianne Smolen, Mark Templin
- Excused: Frank Calzonetti, Timothy Fisher, Wayne Hoss, Anand Kunnathur, Joel Lipman, Hermann Von Grafenstein
- Absent: Max Funk, Amira Gohara, Paul Hong, Don Shik-Kim, Sara Lundquist, 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 faculty judges are still needed for the Graduate Student Association Midwest Research Symposium on March 26, 2011. The GCEC hopes to be able to conduct election of officers at the April 19th meeting of the Graduate Council. We are going to look at the Academic Standards document and vote today.

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

Dr. Patricia Komuniecki welcomed Dr. Brian Ashburner, the new Associate Dean of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, to the Graduate Council. Dr. Komuniecki provided the following updates:

• ***Budget Updates***

By now most everyone has heard the Governor's proposed cuts to higher education for the upcoming biennial budget. The reduction in SSI to UT will be \$18.5M and that will be added to the anticipated \$14.7M in funding needed to cover contractual commitments (such as those to healthcare and unions), increased utilities costs, and structural deficits, thus, the total projected deficit for next year is \$33.2M (approximately 10% of the \$350M 'non-hospital' budget, minus costs for auxiliaries, facility depreciation, and sponsored programs). Current budget projections include a 6% increase in graduate tuition (would generate ~\$1.3M in new revenue assuming a flat enrollment and distribution of in-state/out-of-state similar to fall 2010).

On the good news side, the word from Columbus is that due to increased tax revenues for the past few months, it is possible that the 12th SSI payment for FY11 (\$7.9M) may be paid. Since the 1.5% reduction has already been taken, those funds could be applied toward the \$33.2M, thus reducing the target figure to \$25.3M. Budget hearings to date already have identified approximately \$7M with additional hearings to come over the next two weeks (the reduced target figure is now~ \$18.3M).

The Budget Formulation Workgroup will also propose additional possibilities including possible furloughs, closing over the holidays and the like. The COGS Budget Hearing will likely be held in next week or so.

- *CGS Webinar*

About two weeks ago, the COGS Associate Deans along with Dr. Komuniecki attended a CGS webinar on the Federal budgets for FY11 and 12 with a particular focus on the impact on graduate education. Some proposed cuts to Federal agencies that support graduate education are as follows:

- *National Science Foundation*
 - Research & Related Activities-Cut 3% from FY 10 (\$150 million)
 - Education & Human Resources-Cut 17% from FY 10 (\$147 million)
- Department of Energy Office of Science-Cut 18% from FY 10 (\$893 million)
- National Institutes of Health – Cut back to 2008 levels, >\$1.6 billion less than FY10 (over 5%).
- TRIO at the Department of Education: Cut by \$25 million (~3%)
- Educational and Cultural Exchanges at the Department of State: Cut by \$134 million (>35%)

- *COF 2.0*

The UT proposal for funds from the “Choose Ohio First” program was submitted to the OBR on February 28th. The final proposal included five areas: the BIPG pipeline program between the Colleges of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and Medicine, the Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering and the Ph.D. in Engineering from the College of Engineering, and two from Physics: one focusing on the M.S. in Photovoltaics and the two Ph.D. specializations, Medical Physics and Materials Sciences. We should hear back in May or June about possible funding.

- *IGERT Solicitation*

NSF is soliciting proposals for the IGERT program: letters of intent are due May 2, 2011, with full proposals due July 1, 2011. This is a change from previous practice whereby full proposals used to be by invitation only. The program expects to award 18 new and renewal awards of up to \$3.3 million over five years; an estimated \$13.5 million is expected to be available for grants. Dr. Komuniecki encouraged STEM faculty to consider submitting a LOI to the Office of Research (only one proposal can be submitted from UT). This program provides significant support for STEM graduate students.

- *Graduate Council Elections*

COGS is requesting that the colleges provide names of the new representatives to the Graduate Council through the college elections process. Given the recent college reorganization, Ms. Terri Hayes is working with the colleges to determine the number of graduate faculty and appropriate representation so that we will be able to seat the new Council.

- *Announcements*

- Deadline extended: The deadline for applications/nominations for COGS Fellowships, Scholarships and Awards has been extended to March 28, 2011.
- Graduate Student Tab on the UT Portal: went live March 21, 2011
- Spring Deadlines for Graduating Students
 - ETD Format review - March 25, 2011
 - OhioLink Upload - April 8, 2011
- Orientation Programs for New Students
 - Summer 2011-online modules
 - Fall 2011 dates
 - Main Campus - Tuesday, August 16th (will be required):
 - Health Science Campus - Wednesday, August 17th (will be required)
 - Teaching Assistant Training - Thursday, August 18th

Following Dr. Komuniecki's report there was continued discussion on budget issues. Dr. Salyers wondered what happened to the \$400 million *Race to the Top* funds. Dr. Mary Ellen Edwards replied that it was for K-12 and has been awarded. Dr. Komuniecki noted that COGS cut was \$289,000, of which \$145,000 would be a tuition increase and the other \$145,000 would be from internal re-evaluation. Lawrence Anderson inquired about the schedule for COF. Dr. Komuniecki indicated that Ms. Elsa Nadler in the Office of Research would likely have that. UT has several proposals which are well established in the STEM areas. Dr. Hefzy indicated that COF is reduced as a line item in the budget. There was discussion about reduced federal funding in several areas.

The following reports were moved in order to allow sufficient time to receive the report of the Graduate Student Association.

Standing Committee Reports

Report of the Membership Committee

Dr. Mohamed Hefzy, Membership Committee Chair, reported that the committee is currently reviewing approximately 25 applications for graduate faculty membership and expects the committee will have its final recommendations by the next Council meeting.

Report of the Curriculum Committee

Dr. Patricia Relue, Curriculum Committee Chair, presented the recommendations of the Graduate Curriculum Committee. Council approved unanimously.

Curriculum Committee

Dr. Patricia Relue, Curriculum Committee chair, presented the recommendations of the Graduate Curriculum Committee. Council approved unanimously.

NEW COURSES

ENG	GREN:6920	Special Topics in Engineering	1 - 6	renumbering of ENGT:6920
ENG	GREN:6980	Special Topics in Engineering	1 - 6	renumbering of ENGT:6980

PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS

MED	Bioinformatics & Proteomics/Genomics	BRIM Certificate Program (was BPG Certificate Program)	Name change
BUS	MBA	MBA - all areas	remove required BUAD 6920; hrs drop from 36 to 33
HSHS	Counselor Education and School Psych	Ph. D in Counselor Education	RESM 8320 change from required to elective; COUN 7930 required; no change in hrs
HSHS	Counselor Education and School Psych	M.A. in Counselor Education with concentration in School Counselling	SPED 5000 to SPED5000 or SPSY 5040

Organizational Reports

Report of the Graduate Student Association

Mr. Michael Bechill, President of the Graduate Student Association gave an update on the planning for the Midwest Graduate Research Symposium.

▪ **Participants**

Currently, 175 participants are registered to give either an oral presentation or a poster presentation.

▪ **Keynote Dinner and Awards Ceremony**

- Lonnie Thompson, a world renowned glaciologist and member of the National Academy of Science, will be delivering the keynote speech. Complementary dinner and will be provided to all participants at this event.
- Awards will be given to the top three performers in each of the two sessions, oral and poster.
- At this time, participants will also be able to pick up their participants certificate.

▪ **Judges**

- Currently, we have 33 judges registered to judge either an oral presentation, poster presentation, or in some case both types of presentations. If you or anyone you know would like to judge, please have them contact Jacquelyn Cearfoss for judges registration details.

▪ **Sponsorships**

- In an attempt to alleviate the COGS from the financial burden of this symposium and in response to the large number of participants registered, the GSA has began to raise funds from outside sources
- If you or anyone you know may be interested in donating to this year's Midwest Graduate Research Symposium, please contact Josh Waldman.

Dr. Komuniecki acknowledged Mr. Michael Bechill and the GSA officers for their hard work and efforts to coordinate the Midwest Graduate Student Research Symposium.

Information and Discussion Items

Academic Standards Document Update

Using the data projector, Dr. Komuniecki referenced the Academic Standards document draft versions 2.21.2011 and the 3.15.11 to point out a few recommended modifications endorsed by the Associate Deans Council and the Graduate Council Executive Committee.

On page 1, paragraph 2, referencing parameters of grade of IN, the following change was made:

Once the IN grade has been converted to F, the student must re-register and take the course again. [~~DELETED: No grade change may be submitted.~~]

On page 2, third bulleted item under Academic Fresh Start, the following was inserted.

Not enrolled at The University for at least two years prior to current enrollment. [*INSERTED: Under exceptional circumstances a student may apply to COGS for a waiver of the two-year rule.*]

[MOTION: The March 15, 2011 Academic Standards for the College of Graduate Studies document with above modifications were endorsed unanimously.]

Old Business

None.

New Business

Dr. Komuniecki announced that she has upcoming international travel on behalf of the University during the first and third weeks of April. The first trip is to renew an exchange agreement in the United Kingdom and the other is to participate in the MBA in India graduation ceremony in Coimbatore (91 graduates this year). Since she will be unable to attend the April Graduate Council meetings, Associate Dean, Dr. Susan Pocotte, will co-chair the April 5th meeting and Associate Dean, Dr. Thea Sawicki, will co-chair the April 19th meeting. They will have the opportunity to report sessions at the 2011 MAGS meetings, March 30 – April 1, 2011 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Adjournment

There being no further business the Council adjourned at 1:39 p.m.