

**Graduate Council Minutes
February 8, 2011
12:30 – 2:00 p.m.
Main Campus
Student Union Room 2582**

Present: Lawrence Anderson, Jamie Barlowe, Michael Bechill, Barbaranne Benjamin, James Benjamin, Frank Calzonetti, Wendy Cochrane, Michael Dowd, Mary Ellen Edwards, Brian Fink, Timothy Fisher, Max Funk, Amira Gohara, Kay Grothaus, Mohamed Hefzy, Wayne Hoss, Dong-Shik Kim, Jon Kirchhoff, Patricia Komuniecki, Anand Kunnathur, Peter Lindquist, Joseph Margiotta, Sheryl Milz, Holly Monsos, Surya Nauli, Susan Pocotte, Benjamin Pryor, Patricia Relue, Charles Rop, Kathleen Salyers, Dorothea Sawicki, Dianne Smolen, Mark Templin

Absent: Hassan Hassab-Elnaby, Paul Hong, Joel Lipman, Sara Lundquist, Amy Thompson, Hermann Von Grafenstein

Excused: David Giovannucci, Azadeh Parvin, Frank Pizza, Randall Ruch

Call to Order, Roll and Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of January 11, 2011, Graduate Council meeting were approved.

Executive Reports

Report of the Executive Committee of the Graduate Council

Dr. Mark Templin expressed the Graduate Student Association's urgent need for additional judges for the Midwest Graduate Research Symposium on March 26, 2011, as there are only 13 judges at this time. He asked Council members to either volunteer or speak to their colleagues so that there is broad representation from many fields. Dr. Lawrence Anderson volunteered. Dr. Komuniecki added that she and Dr. Templin would send an email to graduate faculty in case they had not yet heard about the symposium. Dr. Templin reported that due recent college restructuring and a resignation of an Executive Committee position of Vice Chair, elections for these will likely occur at the next Council meeting. He informed Council that updates will be necessary to the Graduate Council Bylaws and Graduate Faculty Constitution. The Graduate Council Executive Committee will discuss necessary change more carefully before bringing them to the Council.

In order to accommodate Provost McMillen's schedule, the Report of the Vice Provost for Graduate Affairs and Dean of the College of Graduate Studies will follow his Government Relations Update.

Information and Discussion Items

Government Relations Update

Provost William McMillen and Ms. Kathy Vasquez, Associate Vice President for Governmental Relations, were invited to today's Graduate Council meeting to provide an update on government relations. Dr. McMillen indicated today's update would focus on current relationships at the state level, while discussion at the Faculty Senate yesterday was focused on federal issues. Provost McMillen began by stating that Governor Kasich was in Toledo yesterday at the Rotary. He referenced a recent article a projected 11% cut. The new budget director was quoted as saying things may not be so bad. It is not known whether we will receive the \$7.9 million payment in June as there are still a lot of unknowns. Although March 15th is the release of the Governor's proposed budget, we hope to have some budget indications before then and we are working day by day with the legislature.

Ms. Kathy Vasquez reported that tomorrow is IUC Day at the Statehouse with the highlight being a luncheon with the representatives to discuss the economic impact of support of higher education in the State. A crowd of about 300 is expected. The collective bargaining bill hearing may be the same day. The new administration is rather silent on higher education.

Provost McMillen indicated there were four incumbent leaders from Northwest Ohio; one state senator, Mr. Steve Buehrer from Northwest Ohio was appointed to the Bureau of Workers Compensation. A veteran, Mr. Randy Gardner is from the Bowling Green area, has been a friend of the University and his family has a background in education. He is now the Chair of the House Education Committee. Mr. Mark Wagoner is in the State Senate sponsor of HB1 Jobs Ohio bill. The administration has plans to privatize the Department of Development. There is in economic development circles with some controversy surrounding openness and private vs. state councils. Ms. Barbara Sears represents Sylvania and Ottawa Hills, and is a member of the House Finance Committee deciding the budget. Ms. Sears has had sons who were UT students. Mr. Lynn Wachtmann, a conservative from the Archbold-Wauseon area, sponsored HB 69, a pension reform bill.

Ms. Vasquez stated that Democrat, Mr. Michael Ashford, is expected to be hard working; Mr. Matthew Szollosi is closely associated with labor and construction; Ms. Edna Brown, a new State Senator, has been quietly supportive of the University; and Ms. Teresa Fedor who is back in the House, supports the Ohio Trafficking Law which was initiated by a UT faculty member. Both Mr. Michael Ashford and Mr. Matthew Szollosi were in to see the President a few weeks ago. She reminded Council that UT's Government Relations distributes weekly Legislative Updates.

Provost McMillen reported there is no indication yet whether the OBR will be disbanded and included in Department of Education or whether Chancellor Eric Fingerhut will continue his last year. Regarding pension reform, PERS is in better shape than STRS. The COLA is different in year two; CPI is 3% now. Retirement will be calculated on five highest salary years. STRS started paying graduated increases 10 to 12.5%, only members, no increase to institutions. Other provisions included paying more, working longer – up to 35 years and getting less. Mr. Lynn Wachtmann introduced the bill. Hopefully, more moderate Republicans will introduce modifications so that Ohio does not tap into pension funds to balance state budgets. It is important to note that legislators are part of the pension system. Other issues will come up, textbooks, Third Frontier.

Dr. Calzonetti added that although Third Frontier is supported by a \$700 million bond, and the funding is safe, he wondered who will decide what programs will be supported; perhaps the new director of Ohio Department of Development, Mr. James Leftwich. He noted that Mr. Leftwich is interested in business development so he would be interested in the business aspect of the Third Frontier.

The administrator of the Common Sense Initiative gives Mary Taylor, Lieutenant Governor, authority over the Department of Insurance to review every policy and regulation to make sure it's business-friendly.

There was discussion about an 11% reduction as opposed to 20% and whether 11% is from the State budget or State share instruction?

Executive Reports Continued

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

Dr. Patricia Komuniecki provided the following updates:

- ***Budget Update***

There will be no major updates today as UT is still awaiting a better indication for what Governor Kasich's budget will be and what impact it will have on higher education. The Governor was in Toledo yesterday and spoke at the Rotary Club luncheon. President Jacobs attended and reported that the major message was that the Governor will propose a balanced budget and will not propose new taxes. It is likely that this biennial budget will not protect higher education as much as past budgets.

Tomorrow, UT and other USO universities are sending delegations to Columbus to meet with legislators at an IUC-sponsored event. Dr. Komuniecki said she would keep the Council posted as to more news on the budget front. The COGS pre-budget hearing is scheduled for next week, February 17th, after which time we will have a better idea of how we will proceed with the FY12 budget in the coming month.

- *Budget Update*

Just a reminder to the Graduate Council Program Review Committee that their major task to review the 44 doctoral programs at UT will begin right after spring break, after the colleges finish vetting the IR data and answering several qualitative questions (regarding placement etc.) that will provide a snapshot of the past three years of each program, so that we can ensure that all our programs are viable. COGS Associate Dean, Dr. Susan Pocotte, will be working with Dr. Max Funk, GC Program Review Committee Chair, and the Program Review Committee on this important process.

- *COGS Annual Fellowships, Scholarships and Awards*

Dr. Komuniecki was pleased to announce that the application/nomination information for all the COGS fellowships, scholarships and awards are now available on the COGS website. These include the University Fellowship and GOAP Awards that can cover stipends and tuition scholarships. The GC Fellowship and Scholarship Committee reviews applications for the University Fellowships and the one-time awards and selects the awardees. This year, there are three one-time awards: the Buell, Whiteford, and Fields awards (funding ranges from ~\$300 to \$1,000 depending on the award). The Bostleman Scholarship currently at ~\$2,300 is applied toward to tuition and fees for up to two years at the master's level and up to three years at the doctoral level. These awards are presented to the recipients at the last GC meeting of the spring term. Dr. Komuniecki thanked Drs. Jamie Barlowe and Lawrence Anderson who have both volunteered to serve as GC representatives to the GOAP Award Committee that reviews the GOAP applications. The deadline for all these awards is March 21, 2011.

- *External Research and Fellowship Opportunities*

COGS has created a link under the current student site that provides information about extramural funding opportunities. Currently there are offerings for the NRC research associate programs and also Phi Kappa Phi graduate fellowships with spring deadlines. Please encourage your students to consider submitting applications or seeking nominations for these and other awards.

- *Graduate Portal*

COGS has created a new "Graduate" tab for the UT home page that will allow current students to view all possible areas of interest in one location with a direct link to the appropriate page on the COGS website. It should roll out soon.

- *New GRE Test-August 2011*

As a reminder to all graduate faculty, as of this summer, a new GRE test is being rolled out, and in addition to having a new format, there also is a new grading scale. Thus, all of our graduate programs will need to become familiar with the new test and make appropriate adjustments to the GRE requirements for admitting students for future terms. Ms. Debbie Andrews has sent an email with ETS webinar information to all the college Associate Deans to share with the graduate faculty. COGS will also create a link on our graduate faculty website. As information becomes available for students, we will also make available on the prospective student link.

- *Professional Development*

The next sessions are the

- Overview of the Electronic Submission Process for Main Campus Programs
Wednesday, February 9, 2011, 4-5pm, Carlson Library Room 2000
- The Job Hunt
Thursday, February 17, 4-5:30 pm, Student Union Room 2582-84

- *Publicity*
 - UT Times
This week's UTimes (2/01/11) covered the recognition of the incoming University Fellows at the December GC meeting with a story and group photo. Graduate education will also be profiled in The Blade as part of an upcoming UT Matters story (April or May 2011).
 - UT Matters
Graduate education will be profiled in *The Toledo Blade* as part of an upcoming *UT Matters* story in April or May 2011.
 - TowerViews
Mr. Larry Burns will host Dr. Komuniecki and Mr. Kevin West for an upcoming TowerViews segment probably in late March as we continue to get the word out about the diversity and quality of graduate and professional programs here at UT.

Information and Discussion Items Continued

Elections for Research Council Member

Dr. Karen Bjorkman is sorry to have to step down since she really enjoyed serving on the Research Council (RC). RC members review various institutes on campus, they look at interdisciplinary research, policies on research activities, commercialization policies, URAF proposals, DeArce applications, contribute to the UT Discovers Brochure. Ms. Elsa Nadler is working on the next issue which should be available this summer. There is significant value in faculty members' research and contributions to outreach and engagement. RC meets once per month. Ms. Nadler was hoping to have the representative from the humanities. The new RC representative will join fellow Graduate Council members, Drs. Hans Gottgens, Joel Lipman, Mohammed Hefzy and Marthe Howard.

Dr. Margiotta inquired as to eligibility of the Health Science Campus (HSC) for these awards. Dr. Frank Calzonetti responded that the Main Campus has had URAF faculty development (summer fellowships), DeArce program for interdisciplinary projects in place, and since the merger, those programs have expanded. The other programs were for 9-month faculty which the HSC doesn't really have. We have a proposal to develop a new program which yields faculty in the Biosciences. Part of this is from the State research incentive, and must follow Third Frontier guidelines including external review. Three centers of excellence will be brought to Research Council for discussion.

The Graduate Council Executive Committee made the following nominations and both nominees would be able to serve; Dr. Hans Gottgens from Environmental Sciences and Dr. Joseph Schmidt from Chemistry. Receiving a majority of votes, Dr. Hans Gottgens was elected.

Elections for Vice Chair

Elections to assume Chair position for the remainder of 2010-11 and next year, 2011-2012, replacing Sara Lundquist, have been moved to the next Graduate Council meeting, March 22, 2011.

Standing Committee Reports

Membership Committee

None.

Curriculum Committee

None.

Organizational Reports

Report of the Graduate Student Association

Mr. Michael Bechill, President of the Graduate Student Association (GSA) gave a brief report on the arrangements for the Midwest Graduate Student Research Symposium slated for March 26, 2011. Graduate Student Association. Most of the planning has been well underway, thanks in part to the following graduate student symposium coordinators:

- Lead Symposium Coordinator: Michael Bechill
- Keynote Coordinator: Michael Bechill
- Contributions Coordinator: Josh Waldman
- Program Coordinator: Shannon Cearfoss
- Volunteers Coordinator: Minal Bhadane
- Judges Coordinator: Jacquelyn Cearfoss
- Certificates Coordinator: Walter Anderson

Mr. Bechill indicated that additional faculty judges are needed and that the GSA is seeking sponsorships this year to support this important event.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Adjournment

There being no further business the Council adjourned at 2:01 p.m.