

**Graduate Council Minutes
October 30, 2007**

Call to Order, Roll, Approval of Minutes

Present: Linda Alvarado (GSA), Jamie Barlowe, Donald Beeman, Barbaranne Benjamin, Michael Bisesi, Karen Bjorkman, Frank Calzonetti, Maria Coleman, Dwayne Demedio, Michael Dowd, Jeanne Funk, John Gaboury, Hans Gottgens, Mohamed Hefzy, Morris Jenkins, Joan Kaderavek, Patricia Komuniecki, Sara Lundquist, Anastasia Mirzoyant (GSA), Marietta Morrissey, Sam Okoroafo, Patricia Relue, Constantine Theodosiou, Frederick Williams, Gregory Stone

Guest: Provost Jeffrey Gold

Excused: Walter Olson, Frederick Williams

Unexcused: Wayne Hoss (2), Susan Martyn (1), Danny Pincivero (2), Dale Snauwaert (1)

The Minutes of September 18, 2007, meeting were approved.

Report of the Executive Committee of the Graduate Council and the Dean of the Graduate School

Dr. Dowd called the meeting to order and stated the Graduate Council Executive Committee (GCEC) and the Graduate Council have been off to a busy start this year. He welcomed Provost Jeffrey Gold to the meeting who provided an update on the restructuring of the College of Graduate Studies. He also thanked Dr. Gold for including the GCEC in the discussions and sharing the restructuring document with the graduate faculty. The GCEC has established a list of names for the search committee and will keep you posted on those developments. The GCEC had a discussion on graduate faculty membership on how to bring the two graduate faculties together.

Dr. Theodosiou reported that the College of Graduate Studies staff members have returned from their recruitment trip to China. He noted this was a worthy expenditure as there is strong interest in UT in that region, particularly in business, biological sciences and engineering. About 70 students wish to be contacted for further development. At a graduate associate deans meeting, he had asked for promotional materials from the colleges for this recruitment trip.

Dr. Hefzy initiated discussion on whether the TOEFL test is waived for some students and whether the ILTS minimum score is set low which causes difficulties for international students' abilities to adequately understand English and he would like to see the ILTS score raised or go back to using the TOEFL only. Dr. Theodosiou said the applicants are prescreened by their university. Basically, we provide them with the out-of-state tuition surcharge, however, our admissions process is the same and they should not receive preferential treatment in terms of admission standards. JLL, a recruiting agency in China provides them special assistance in obtaining their Visa.

Information and Discussion Items

Discussion with Provost and Executive Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean of the College of Medicine, Dr. Jeffrey Gold

Dr. Gold thanked the Council for inviting him to attend this Graduate Council meeting and future meetings if the Council would like for him to return. He also thanked them for the input received on the Graduate College restructuring document that both he and Provost Haggett worked on and said we are now in the process of engaging in the structure of the search committee. Our mission drives the budget, not the budget drives the mission.

He expressed concern for issues of graduate education and for the vision of what graduate studies will look like in five or ten years, locally and internationally, and whether it will be more specialized or tightly tied with industry. Opportunities are available through the State for partnership and commercialization. The day-to-day management and faculty voice can be shared in many ways.

Dr. Morrissey suggested the need to think constructively about the role of the master's degree in our community, considering the economic challenges and industrial change. Tuition assistance is needed for the students seeking to earn MBA and MPA degrees for job enhancement. The county had a practice of paying for one course which provided the student approximately 1/3 of the tuition cost. A lot of programs feel the loss of employer support. Dr. Beeman noted it is not as common now for companies to provide that support, in particular when several Fortune 500 previously headquartered in Toledo are no longer here and in part because of globalization and economic slowdown. Dr. Gold suggested tailoring graduate programs to meet company needs similar to the associate degree's relationship with companies. Medicine is also changing as it becomes tailored to the patient. There should be the same opportunity at the graduate level using tools of distance learning and faculty flexibility. We can ask for some small subsidy for these students. Dr. Beeman added that the College of Business offers an MBA on-site at a corporation and internationally in India.

Dr. Theodosiou added that prominent programs produce a sufficient number of degrees in conjunction with their quality and size. Their visibility attracts quality students. Additional financial support needed. Dr. Gold replied you always need to look at the return on the investment, whether it is in terms prominence, serving community needs, or because it's the right thing to do, while continuing to balance the budget. When designing programs, you look at the goals of growing the educational bar of the community and seek support from the individual and corporation, particularly with start-up costs.

There was additional discussion on basic research vs. applied research in terms of reorganization and overlapping of researchers in joint endeavors and the need for more interdisciplinary programs such as the biomedical engineering program. There is a lot of effort being put forth to bridge the different structures and procedures on both campuses. The logistical, technical barriers are solvable problems and some of those should disappear after the implementation of Banner.

Ms. Linda Alvarado, outgoing President of the Graduate Student Association asked what happened to the recommendations made by the Graduate Program Work Group this past year which addressed a lot of student interests. Dr. Gold responded saying there was value placed on it being integrated as part of the Graduate College restructuring.

Dr. Gold again thanked the Council for the invitation and engaging in the discussion today about qualifications for international graduate admission, logistical issues with the merger and visioning what graduate education will look like ten years from now, and packaging and marketing our programs regionally and nationally.

Graduate Faculty Membership

Dr. Bisesi stated there was agreement that the graduate faculty status would be recognized by both campuses. Is it confusing that Main Campus and the Health Science Campus have different criteria for graduate faculty status. One issue that arose was with the Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences, which has very specific, stringent criteria in establishing levels of mentorship. The GCEC recommended assembling a small group to look at the current criteria for graduate faculty status on both campuses and then select the best aspects of each to establish a minimum set of criteria and as a result, each program can establish more specific, stringent criteria based on the needs of that program.

Dr. Bisesi replied the Health Science Campus also has a graduate faculty membership committee and there are different ways this could function. You can leave it to the programs and they could present it as a report to the Graduate Council so it would be centralized for baseline criteria and more specific for programs and departments. Main campus requires endorsement of the department chair and college dean which addresses the department/college level concerns. Departments deal with faculty/student mentorship. It's an internal metric which often involves supporting the student. Dr. Komuniecki recommended establishing membership tiers while looking for alignment. Dr. Dowd asked for comments and suggestions to be shared with the GCEC. This should be looked at in a way that strengthens the graduate faculty.

Ohio Scholars

Dr. Calzonetti reported \$150 million is invested in Ohio's economy to hire senior research faculty through the State which will allow programs to come in at two different tracks with a minimum of \$2.5 million and a maximum of \$50 million and a one-to-one match. He distributed the document just released this afternoon, The Ohio Research Scholars Program (ORSP) which is a thumbnail sketch of what they're looking for, clusters of excellence with strong linkage to Ohio industry and collaboration with other institutions. The first track has a very high bar requiring the program to have a core group of high quality faculty members and efficient infrastructure to support the activity. There will be a conference tomorrow from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. Letters of interest need to be signed by the President and are due to the State by November 21, 2007. Final proposals are due February 4, 2008. The internal call for pre-proposals is November 14, 2007. It will be coordinated through Frank Calzonetti, Doug Wilkerson, the Provosts and a few other people. He noted there is not a lot of time and matching money will be critical. The President would be aggressive in supporting a strong proposal.

Dr. Bisesi asked whether we should we continue building around the commitment to Innovation Incentive. Dr. Calzonetti replied the message from the Third Frontier meeting is that they want a narrow focus with a good core of highly qualified faculty members. If alternative energy has to be narrower, it will be reviewed by National Academy of Science.

Standing Committee Reports

Membership Committee

Dr Hefzy reported that at its meeting of October 11, 2007, the Membership Committee reviewed 33 applications. The committee's recommendations are enumerated on the summary report. Dr. Gottgens remarked new faculty in the sciences train graduate students and thus, come in requesting full status while in some areas it is appropriate to receive associate status initially. Dr. Komuniecki agreed in the sciences they are required to mentor students right away and must receive full membership. Dr. Bjorkman said by granting associate status initially and asking them to reapply for full status, you make them go through the hoops twice. Dr. Dowd added that elaborations can be made within special membership to meet the needs of such faculty members. Dr. Theodosiou noted the Law school has members on this Council yet their masters program has been discontinued so it may not be necessary for them to reapply.

Organizational Reports

Graduate Student Association

Ms. Linda Alvarado, outgoing President of the GSA reported there was an election for new officers and they are: Ms. Nalanda Roy as President, Ms. Anastasia Mirzoyants as Vice President, Mr. Sumitkumar Jagani as Treasurer. She introduced Ms. Anastasia Mirzoyants to the Council. Dr. Dowd expressed gratitude for her efforts in resurrecting the GSA and the long hours worked to bring it back.

Dr. Theodosiou mentioned he attended a recent GSA meeting, in which health insurance and travel funds were discussed as primary issues and perhaps departments should assist in providing more travel funds. There was discussion about establishing a maximum lifetime of \$1,000.

Dr. Bisesi noted the GSA's recommendations are reflected with the Graduate Program Work Group relative to the Strategic Directions. Many of those concepts of outreach have been addressed. Dr. Gottgens added his department offers \$250 each year and expenses are matched by the faculty member.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Dr. Lundquist will share information at the next meeting about a new graduate course for those needing help with writing skills that will be offered in the spring.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Council adjourned at 2:00 p.m.