

Graduate Council Minutes September 4, 2007

Call to Order, Roll, Introductions

Present: Jamie Barlowe, Donald Beeman, Barbaranne Benjamin, Karen Bjorkman, Frank Calzonetti, Maria Coleman, Maria Coleman, Michael Dowd, Jeanne Funk, John Gaboury, Hans Gottgens, Mohamed Hefzy, Patricia Komuniecki, Morris Jenkins, Sara Lundquist, Marietta Morrissey, Sam Okoroafo, Walter Olson, Patricia Relue, Dale Snauwaert, Constantine Theodosiou, Frederick Williams

Excused: Joan Kaderavek (1), Susan Martyn (1)

Unexcused: Michael Bisesi (1), Dwayne Demedio (1), Wayne Hoss (1), Ruth Hottell (1)

Graduate Council chair, Dr. Mike Dowd welcomed members to the Graduate Council and introduced the Interim Dean of the College of Graduate Studies, Professor Constantine Theodosiou and the Graduate Council Executive Committee members including himself, Karen Bjorkman, Morris Jenkins, Walter Olson, Constantine Theodosiou, Michael Bisesi and Max Funk.

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

Dr. Theodosiou reported that enrollment is up slightly and there are variations among colleges. He stated that although the budget hasn't changed much in the last three years, he is hopeful there will be additional tuition scholarships for part-time students including those with special student status. He wanted to clarify what is considered full time status for graduate students as there have been conflicting numbers on whether it is nine, twelve or fifteen. There is a minimum requirement from immigration of nine hours, from the State of Ohio twelve hours, and of course financial aid is a consideration. From an enrollment and subsidy standpoint more is better. Last year, it was needed to increase enrollment with the Graduate College paying the additional fees. Right now the budget is based on twelve hours. Summer enrollment was not part of the calculation. Bryan Pyles, the Associate Vice President for Finance and Strategic Planning has indicated that fifteen hours is preferred and the appropriate support should be forthcoming. He expects that by January 2008, fifteen hours will be required for supported students. He will check further with the Finance Office and the Provost to get a final determination.

Discussion ensued with Council commenting on the fact there are state and federal regulations in consideration to full-time enrollment. Dr. Benjamin asked if there will be an increase in funds towards tuition. Dr. Theodosiou responded that model didn't go over well when operating under a cap and that out-of-state vs. in-state tuition can vary considerably from year to year. The budget should be the same with the tuition portion flexible enough.

Concern was expressed over graduate students being required to take fifteen hours. It was questioned whether those on a research grant can be reimbursed and whether fifteen hours would be comprised of five graduate level courses, a significant course load for graduate students. Also, a program requiring thirty hours minimum with an estimated time to degree of 1 ½ to 2 years would not work with fifteen hours required each semester. Dr. Theodosiou responded they

would also take seminars and research hours as part of their coursework. This is a front-load model noting there is a cap after a certain point at which time students would register for one thesis/dissertation hour. Others echoed the sentiment that special topics and research hours still add additional work for the student and the faculty workload must be taken into consideration as well.

Dr. Theodosiou encouraged new faculty who intend to teach graduate courses or serve on a research advisory committee, to apply for graduate faculty membership and to complete the Graduate Research Advisory Committee Approval and Assurances form. It is a very important issue and the form must be completed and filled out correctly. Hopefully, we can get Dr. Barbra Chesney to attend a Council meeting fairly soon to talk about IRB issues. Dr. Bjorkman suggested a list of required forms for faculty be posted on the web such as those dealing with compliance, graduation and admissions. Dr. Morrissey added that Mr. Jeff Busch works with human subjects approval compliance and is very helpful.

Dr. Frank Calzonetti reported that Innovation Incentive reports were generally positive. However, there were two areas of concern; our alternative energy program is asked to refocus and the cancer biology program had more criticisms of its focus. There will likely be an additional push towards STEM and probably reallocation at doctoral level at some point. \$207 million available this year.

Information and Discussion Items

Discussion with Professor Rosemary Haggett, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Rosemary Haggett stated graduate education is about transforming people and knows this group is passionate about graduate education. She asked the Council to share its concerns.

Dr. Dowd asked for the status on the search for the Graduate College Dean. Provost Haggett responded that there have been several conversations on the organizational structure of the College of Graduate Studies and that every time there is a leadership change, it gives us the opportunity to ask that question. This has been discussed with various groups on campus, Provost Gold, and the Council of Graduate Schools. She has scheduled one additional meeting with the Graduate Council Executive Committee on September 14th and then we will be ready to proceed. The information from the Council of Graduate School is on their website.

Dr. Patricia Komuniecki asked what a typical structure is with a school like ours with our complexities. Provost Haggett replied there are other schools that have our model with dual provosts and a director of graduate studies, but not central vs. decentralization. You have to look at how much good is it to take pieces out. She did not see the admissions decisions process changing. Dr. Komuniecki added that the merger group she participated in for nearly six months looked at some of these same issues.

Dr. Dowd asked for input from the faculty on their concerns and structure of the Graduate College and Dean of the Graduate College before we are scheduled to meet again with the Provost.

There was discussion of the role of the graduate faculty to which Provost Haggett stated the graduate faculty are needed. Curriculum is developed, approved, and taught through appropriate faculty channels. Graduate faculty are responsible for graduate education. There needs to be a set of standards upheld and the Provost can be involved. There is a role for all of us in this process. She emphasized that we are a single institution and the organizational structure represents the overall institution.

Also discussed was the status of the Graduate Faculty Constitution and Graduate Council Bylaws. The Constitution has been approved and the Bylaws are being worked on. The Constitution is a capstone document. In contrast, the Health Science campus does not have a history of involvement of graduate faculty in their curriculum, but rather by administrators. And if you cannot vote, you cannot accept or reject. It was noted the constitution doesn't prohibit that so resolution will need to be addressed within the Bylaws. The HSC accepted the Constitution with a condition it would not be in effect until the appendices and Bylaws were approved. Our Graduate Curriculum Committee is very active representing all the colleges including professional colleges. It has proven very useful in stopping duplication of courses. It is important for this body to continue that work.

Teaching Assistant Stipend Level

Dr. Komuniecki commented the teaching assistant budget stipend level is too low and she would like to see a systematic review of stipends in this university and others. Dr. Dowd agreed by stating there has not been a systematic review with standards and that such a review would be a strategic use of funds. There was agreement that an increase would be particularly useful at the doctoral level. Dr. Theodosiou responded by saying he has been assigned to look at the support from other universities and that it should be equitable according to the market. He added the biggest boost was a stipend increase several years ago in the natural sciences.

Dr. Dowd thanked Provost Haggett for attending the Graduate Council meeting today and also for meeting with the Graduate Council Executive Committee.

Committee Assignments

Dr. Dowd reported he was unsuccessful in contacting faculty to serve on the standing committees, and therefore, asked Council members to continue service from last year. If all the committees are not populated, assignments may be necessary. Dr. Relue, Curriculum Committee chair, said the curricular review process will be improved by scheduling monthly meetings, thus avoiding a big rush of proposals in the last week or two the academic year as occurred this past year. Also, curricular proposals are to be submitted online. Dr. Theodosiou added that the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree proposal will soon be defended at RACGS in Columbus.

Organizational Reports

None.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Adjournment

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