

**ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
GRADUATE COUNCIL  
FOR  
ACADEMIC YEAR 2003-2004**

**Presented at the  
633<sup>rd</sup> Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate  
October 21, 2004**

**COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP**

<b>Maurianne Adams</b>	<b>Anne C. Moore</b>
<b>Tobias Baskin</b>	<b>John Mullin</b>
<b>Anthony Butterfield, CH</b>	<b>Jose Perez</b>
<b>Marta Calas</b>	<b>Lorna Peterson</b>
<b>James Craig</b>	<b>Terry Porter</b>
<b>Ann Ferguson</b>	<b>Rajagopalan Radhakrishnan</b>
<b>Avadhoot Gokhale</b>	<b>Margherita Russotto</b>
<b>Richard Goldsby</b>	<b>Linda Shea</b>
<b>George Greenstein</b>	<b>Harlan Sturm</b>
<b>Eileen Hayes</b>	<b>Ting-Wei Tang</b>
<b>Arthur Kinney</b>	<b>Nate Therien</b>
<b>Kevin Klement</b>	<b>Tsoledi Thobejane</b>
<b>Paul Kostecki</b>	<b>Smruthi Vartek</b>
<b>Ernest May</b>	<b>Martin Wobst</b>
<b>Pilar Mendoza</b>	<b>Juan Zamora</b>

## Graduate Council Annual Report 2003-2004

The Graduate Council met eight times during the 2003-04 academic year. In September, chair Tony Butterfield and the Council welcomed incoming Graduate Dean John Mullin. In addition to its normal business of working with him and reviewing and approving fellowships, travel grants, and new courses, the Council's endeavors focused on the quality of online education, departmental consolidations, and a new fee for international students. A summary of this and other Council business follows.

### Special Guests

A number of special guests attended Council meetings this year to give input, report on outside research, and offer expert opinions on matters facing the Council. The September meeting was joined by Michael Gargano, Jr., the new Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Campus Life, and Jim Leheny from the Chancellor's Office. Dr. Gargano invited members' input about his agenda for the year, while Dr. Leheny discussed the budget cut situation and the University's 5-year midpoint report in the re-accreditation process.

In March and May, Andy Churchill from the School of Education attended meetings to discuss his research into the quality of online education at UMass. In April, the Council welcomed Dean Lee Edwards of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts and Robert Schwartzwald, chair of the "Language Department." Frank Hugus from the International Programs Office visited the Council meeting at the May meeting. Details on all these visitors and their business may be found below.

### Courses and Programs Approved

A total of 23 new courses were recommended for approval by the Academic Standards and Curriculum Subcommittee and unanimously approved by the Council. By departments, the courses are as follows:

EDUC 846, 845, 642, 622, 663, 601, 704, 604, 612, 616, 620, 718, and 734;  
COMMDIS 646;  
EXERSCI 555;  
PSYCH 662 and 663;  
M&I-ENG 604.

In addition, at the March 10 meeting the Academic Standards and Curriculum Committee reported that it had reviewed the proposal for a new **MA in Architecture** degree program and recommended it for approval by the Council. The proposal was unanimously approved.

Committee chair, Arthur Kinney, noted that this is a pioneer type of program, highly interdisciplinary in nature.

### UMass Online

Chair Butterfield suggested in October that UMass Online should become a priority item for the Council during the 2003-04 academic year. At the November meeting, Marta Calás reported on a meeting with Barbara MacAulay of UMass Online in Boston, which was also attended by Elizabeth Bertone-Johnson and James Craig of the Academic Standards and Curriculum Subcommittee. In particular, it was noted that each campus has some leeway to dictate standards of quality; Professor Calás and the other attendees recommended that the Council contribute to this effort. Throughout the year, the Council was kept apprised of the work of Andy Effrat and Andy Churchill from the School of Education, who were appointed by the

Dean to study the determinants of quality in online education at UMass. At the May meeting, Andy Churchill reviewed the highlights of his report, "Ensuring Quality in Online Higher Education Courses," which involved a literature review, interviews on campus, and discussion with some national experts on the topic. After some discussion about appropriate next steps, it was determined that the base for an ad hoc committee on this matter should be the Faculty Senate. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to ask the Faculty Senate to establish an ad hoc committee for online learning.

### **Departmental consolidations**

In February, Chair Butterfield distributed copies of a memo from Provost Seymour to Secretary of the Faculty Senate, Ernie May, regarding four proposed departmental consolidations. He asked each member to plan to spend a major part of the next month's Council meeting discussing its implications for faculty and curriculum. Each proposal was taken up separately; a summary of the deliberations follows.

- Proposal 2: To form a new Department of Plant, Soil, and Insect Sciences from the existing departments of Plant and Soil Sciences and Entomology. This proposal was passed by unanimous vote.
- Proposal 3: Consolidation of Journalism and Communication. This proposal is not relevant to the Graduate Council's business since Journalism has no graduate programs. It was moved and passed to approve Proposal 3 without objection.
- Proposal 4: Merger of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, Community Health Studies, and Environmental Health Sciences into a new Department of Public Health. It was moved and unanimously passed to accept Proposal 4.
- Proposal 1: Merger of Asian Languages and Literatures, Comparative Literature, French and Italian Studies, Germanic Languages and Literatures, and Spanish and Portuguese into a new Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. At the March meeting the Council's action was to turn the proposal over to the Academic Standards and Curriculum Committee (ASCC) for further study, to be reported back at the next meeting. The April meeting was attended by guests Dean Lee Edwards of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts and "Language Department" Chair Robert Schwartzwald. Their views were that the proposed consolidation will strengthen, not weaken, each department and make expansion more possible, not less so. In addition, the ASCC reviewed the proposal and now fully supports it. A motion was made and unanimously passed to approve the consolidation as proposed.

### **Fee for International Students**

At the February meeting, Chair Butterfield distributed a memo from Richard Bogartz, Chair of the Rules Committee, asking the Council's feedback on the additional \$65 fee now being charged to international students to support the International Program Office (IPO). After considerable discussion, the Council made and unanimously passed the following motion: "Whereas international graduate students are a valued and integral part of teaching and research on the UMass Amherst campus, the Graduate Council recommends that the \$65 per semester fee increase be rescinded, and that if students must be charged additional fees to support the IPO, these fees be charged to all students and not to a single subgroup."

In April, the issue was revisited. At that time, Dean Mullin reported that he was looking into all aspects of the situation with the help of a consultant. Discussion continued at the May meeting, where special guest, Frank Hugus, IPO Director, provided some background on the issue. Some of the points discussed included that the Chancellor has mandated that the IPO become self-supporting, that revenue from the fee does not make up the large shortfall in the IPO budget, that many universities levy charges on international students in excess of \$65, and that it is difficult to track who has and has not paid the fee. Council member James Craig volunteered to join the task force on this issue. A motion was made, seconded, and passed with one abstention to direct Council members to discuss the matter with the GSS and to request that Dean Mullin bring it up with the deans as well.

### **Travel Committee**

It first appeared that, due to budget cuts, there would be no grants available for graduate student travel this year. However, in October, Dean Mullin was pleased to report that both the Graduate Student Grant Service and Graduate Travel Grant funding had been restored. Also in October, Travel Committee chair, Anne C. Moore, reported that the committee analyzed records on number of applications, average awards, and awards by departments. They also met with Dean Mullin and proposed, subject to input from the deans, a "pilot" program for this year whereby a weighted sum of money will be awarded to departments. The departments themselves would make awards with the condition that they match the sum offered by the Graduate School. The committee will review and assess the pilot at the end of the experimental period. (Note: The graduate student travel grant program actually implemented varied somewhat from this proposal.)

### **Ethics committee**

On October 24, the Ethics Committee held its second annual campus-wide workshop, which once again was highly successful. 70 people pre-registered, and approximately 40 attended. There was a strong interest in continuing the workshop presentations, and/or a follow-up to this one. One idea advanced was that a 1-credit class be required for all graduate students. In March, the committee reported that plans were underway for next year's workshop, with the possibility of combining the ethics and mentoring events. Another positive note is that new ethics courses have been started in several departments.

### **Mentoring Committee**

This year's mentoring symposium took place on May 14, where the year's six sponsored projects were presented. Other universities have expressed interest in our model and program, showing that it is indeed a model program. Recommendations have been made for funding 5 proposals and the symposium for next year, at a cost slightly above \$51,000.

### **Fellowship Committee**

The fellowship committee received 75 "off-campus" nominations from over 30 departments and awarded 29 fellowships in 20 departments. Of these 29, 10 were accepted and 19 were returned to the pool for current students. Awards to current students were made in 33 departments and ranged from \$8,000-\$12,000.

Although the funding for fellowships first appeared to have gone the way of budget cuts, the Provost contributed additional funding to bring total funding to the same level as last year. The total award for all fellowships for the 2003-04 year was \$275,000.

**Student Affairs**

Despite expressed interest from GSS President Jose Perez in activating the Student Affairs Committee, no business was brought to the committee from graduate students this year. There was discussion by the Council at year-end of several ideas that could help facilitate more contact between students and the committee in the future.

**Special Admissions Committee**

The ad hoc Special Admissions Committee was reconstituted this year. It reviewed five applications at the request of Graduate Admissions Director Patricia Stowell. It recommended favorably on all five cases, with some conditions for candidates who did not meet normal admission requirements.

**Miscellaneous**

- The Community Health Studies program was renamed the Community Health Education program.
- The Masters in Public Administration was renamed the Masters in Public Policy and Administration.
- At the final meeting, a motion was made from the floor to nominate Tony Butterfield as Chair of the Graduate Council for 2004-05. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously, with one abstention. Chair Butterfield will return for the 2004-05 year.