

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
GRADUATE COUNCIL
FOR ACADEMIC YEAR
2005-2006**

**Presented at the
655th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
September 21, 2006**

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Maurianne Adams	William McClure
Jane Baran	Anne C. Moore
Tobias Baskin	John Mullin
Julia Beyer	Philip Nasca
D. Anthony Butterfield, Chair	Jose Ornelas
James Craig	Lorna Peters on
David Dudek	Carol Picard
Laura Doyle	Arslan Razmi
Anil Duman	Margara Russotto
Richard Goldsby	Linda Shea
Dennis Hanno	Pat Stowell (ex-officio)
Thomas Heydt-Benjamin	Uri Strauss
Rama Janaswamy	Peter Tamas
Arthur Kinney	Nathan Therien
Kevin Klement	H. Martin Wobst
Paul Kostecki	Juan Zamora
Ernest May	

**Graduate Council of the Faculty Senate
Annual Report 2005-2006**

Summary

The Graduate Council of the Faculty Senate met eight times during the academic year 2005-2006. As can be noted from the detailed report below, in addition to managing and fulfilling the usual workloads of the standing committees, such as review and approval of fellowship grants, travel grants, and new academic programs and courses, the Council began several new initiatives. These initiatives include 1) determining whether revisions to the Graduate Fellowship Program could help improve recruiting and retaining top graduate student talent, 2) investigating the statute of limitations issue and how to better manage and successfully facilitate the timely completion of graduate studies at UMASS, 3) beginning a discussion about differential weighting of graduate courses for faculty workload analysis and the manner in which the university uses that analysis, and others noted below.

The details:

1. Special Guests at Council Meetings

Josh Kroner, Assistant to the Dean of the Graduate School, attended the September meeting and contributed to discussion of graduate student funding which led to both the proposal to revise the Graduate Fellowship Program and the Statute of Limitation Committee (see below for details).

Associate Provost Bryan Harvey and Marilyn Blaustein, Director of the Office of Institutional Research, attended the February meeting to discuss differential weighting of graduate courses.

2. Academic Programs and Courses reviewed and approved

A. During this year, the Council completed the review and approval of 8 degree programs, 12 new courses, and one name change.

Programs approvals

1. Professional Doctorate in Nursing
2. Dual Degree: MBA/MPAA (Masters of Public Policy & Administration)
3. Dual Degree: MBA/MS Civil Engineering
4. Dual Degree: MBA/MS Environmental Engineering
5. Dual Degree: MBA/MS Industrial Engineering
6. MS Women's Health Nurse Practitioner
7. Changes to Ph.D. Nursing (post baccalaureate entry)
8. Changes to Master of Public Health (MPH)
9. Name change for the Exercise Science Department to the Department of Kinesiology

Course approvals

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. AFROAM 605 | 2. BIOST&EP 571 |
| 3. CE-ENGIN 778 | 4. COMPLIT 551 |
| 5. COMPLIT 552 | 6. COMPLIT 754 |
| 7. E&CR ENGR 570 | 8. HT-MGT 688 |
| 9. NURSING 704 | 10. NUTRITION 603 |
| 11. POLSCI 750 | 12. SCH-MGT 563 |

2. Academic Programs and Courses reviewed and approved (continued)

Other Approvals

1. Sen. Doc 05-035 - Evening Exam Conflicts
2. Guidelines for Cross-listing of courses
3. Policy Statement on Joint Authorship (revised)

B. An internal system to monitor, track, and report monthly on all course and program proposals received by the Academic Standards and Curriculum Committee was instituted in February.

C. Beginning in February, a major effort to resolve the 21 outstanding course proposals for which no activity had occurred in the past 2-5 years was begun. With the assistance of Anne Benz, Secretary of the Faculty Senate, and David Dudek, assistant to Chair Butterfield, e-mail contact was established to determine the intentions of the proposal originators and to ask the proposers to resubmit their proposals. This effort resulted in 2 proposals being re-submitted and approved, several proposals being withdrawn or awaiting administrative withdrawal in the next academic year, and the remaining being reworked for submission in the new academic year.

3. Ethics Committee

A. The Department of Anthropology used an Ethics Committee Grant to hold a conference on April 14. Approximately 60-80 individuals attended.

B. Phil Nasca of the Ethics Committee is currently working with the Nanotechnology Department to develop new ethics courses.

4. Mentoring Committee

A. About 100 people attended the Mentoring Conference on Friday, November 18. Norman Cohen was the featured speaker. The need for mentoring training for new faculty orientation was also discussed.

B. Twenty-four proposals for mentoring grants were submitted in April, the largest number of proposals received in the five years of competition. Ten proposals were funded for a total of \$40,860.

C. In March and April, the committee had 6 luncheon meetings with GPD's to discuss mentoring.

D. The Dean acknowledged that, while the Mentoring Committee has completed much good work this year and in past years, the Center for Teaching will, in the next academic year, serve as the focus for graduate mentoring funding. As a result, funding for 2006-7 graduate student mentoring initiatives will most likely be allocated to the Provost.

5. Fellowship Committee

A. Graduate School Fellowship funding totaled \$300,000 for this year. Twenty-six Fellowship Grants for incoming students were awarded to 21 programs. Eighteen Fellowships to current students, from a pool of 63 nominations, were granted. No fellowship grant was funded for under \$10,000.

B. A seven-point proposal for revising the Graduate Fellowship Program was made by the Fellowship Committee in December, 2005. In March, an e-mail survey questionnaire was sent to all Graduate Program Directors (GPD's) to solicit their perspectives on the changes.

While there was clear agreement on some parts of the proposal, there were significant disagreements on the earmarking and allocation of funds between incoming and current students as well as on the acceptability of 1 or 2 year fellowships. There were also disagreements focused on the allocation of funding based on academic department recruitment goals and plans.

As a result, the proposed changes to the Graduate Fellowship Program will not be implemented at this time but discussions will continue.

6. Travel Committee

A. Based on a survey of GPD's which indicated discontent with the 2005-2006 policy of a fixed number of 6 Travel Grants available to each Department regardless of the number of students active in the different graduate program, revisions were made to the Travel Grant Program establishing the maximum number of Travel Grants as follows:

# of Students in Program	1-20	21-40	41-80	81-120	121-160	161+
Maximum # of Nominations	2	3	4	5	6	7

B. In the Fall, 82 Travel Grant applications for a total of \$22,700 were granted. Another eight were denied for being out of scope. In the Spring, 77 Travel Grant applications were received. Seventeen were denied, fifteen were rejected as being over quota, and forty-five were granted and funded with a total of \$18,700. The committee indicated they wished they had another \$10-\$15,000.

7. Student Affairs Committee

A. Through the leadership and hard work of chair Julia Beyer, the Graduate Center Lounge reopened at the beginning of this academic year. After several months of continued patronage and successful operation, the committee also initiated and completed efforts to redesign the interior of the lounge.

8. Statute of Limitations Committee

An ad hoc Statute of Limitations Committee (SOLC) was formed in November, 2005 and chaired by Graduate Registrar Pat Stowell. After a survey and other data gathering and analysis, a report was issued in May which provided the median time from Bachelor's to Doctorate Degree in 2004. The Council approved a revised recommendation made by the committee that a time to degree be set by each doctoral program with an added grace period in special circumstances.

The work of the committee will continue in 2006-7 in order to write and recommend policies as well as continue to explore the topic of externships.

9. Other Graduate Council Business

A. The Council approved a 1 year trial for a program proposed by Registrar Pat Stowell to cap the maximum re-admission fee at \$2,000. After this 1 year period the impact of the change will be assessed and the program will be reconsidered by the Council.

B. Associate Provost Bryan Harvey discussed Graduate Course Faculty Weighting. While the Graduate Council gained a considerable understanding of this topic, no action has yet been taken on this topic.

Differential weighting of graduate courses for faculty is an important topic because it focuses on the question of how much additional effort per student is needed to teach a graduate course when compared to an undergraduate course. This weighting, therefore, helps calculate the differential level of resources needed for graduate and undergraduate instruction and the resulting allocation of resources to these two university endeavors.

C. The Graduate Council and the Research Council established a joint task force to analyze and monitor the use of graduate post-doctorates rather than graduate student research assistants (RA's). Philip Nasca and Tobias Baskin volunteered to serve on this task force as the Graduate Council representatives. A draft letter to the Chancellor from both Councils, requesting a waiver of curriculum fees for RA's, was unanimously passed by the Graduate Council.

D. Jane Baran volunteered to serve on the Faculty Senate's Special Committee on Student Plagiarism as the Graduate Council representative.

10. Other Graduate School News/Developments

A. The Dean explained that we can no longer provide Minority Grants as an institution but we can do other programs. We are currently monitoring the AGEP program being put together by the NSF. Janet Rifkin has been given the lead in putting together our proposal to the NSF to gain some funding because the \$300,000 provided for Diversity Fellowships were funded through monies for NEAGEP (Northeast Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate), which are now required by NEAGEP.

B. The need to develop Certificate Programs as an initial step in creating new academic departments in the Graduate School was stressed by the Dean. Currently there are three Certificate Programs at the UMASS Graduate School: Women Studies, Latin Studies, and Cognitive Studies. There are five more in development and imminent: Medieval Studies (English), Islamic Studies, and Film Studies, Qualitative Research, and Historical Writing. The Dean indicated that the Graduate School will fund other Certificate Program initiatives. A Certificate Program needs to consist of five courses and 15 credits.

C. Significant efforts by Dean John Mullin and Assistant Dean Nigar Khan were made to explore and/or build working relationship with universities in China, Germany, India, Pakistan, South Africa, and Vietnam.

D. An initiative to establish a system to monitor, track, and report on the degree progress of every graduate student was begun. Information technology personnel were hired and the system is expected to be implemented in 2006-2007.

E. "Thesis-on-a-disk", the Graduate School designation for electronic submission of masters theses and doctorate dissertations, was successfully implemented in the Fall, received widespread acceptance, and operated very well throughout the year.

F. Pat Stowell informed the Council that TOEFL was making changes to their scoring method. She noted that, as a result, UMASS was changing its acceptance standards for the Graduate School.

11. Change in Leadership

After fulfilling two two-year terms as Chair of the Graduate Council, Tony Butterfield stepped down. Linda Shea was elected the new Chair for the term 2006-2008. Professor Butterfield will remain a member of the Council.

Respectfully submitted by Professor D. A. Butterfield, Chair of the Graduate Council
September 6, 2006