

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
GRADUATE COUNCIL
FOR
ACADEMIC YEAR 2006-2007**

**Presented at the
667th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
November 15, 2007**

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**Graduate Council of the Faculty Senate
Annual Report 2006-2007**

Summary

The Graduate Council of the Faculty Senate met eight times during the academic year 2006-2007. 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) developing and approving a Graduate Diversity Recruiting Grant Program for 2007-2008, 2) investigating the status of graduate residential housing and facilitating the process of addressing quality issues, 3) beginning discussion and work on general requirement Graduate Ethics Courses, and 4) discussing and investigating Graduate Online Education Policies and their implications.

The detailed report follows below.

1. Special Guests Who Attended Council Meetings

Patrick Sullivan, Assistant Registrar, worked with the Council to develop electronic dissertation submission policies, noted on page 4. He also now serves as chair of the Statute of Limitations Committee.

David Vaillancourt, Associate Director of Residential Life, and John Findley, Director of Housing Operations attended the May meeting to discuss graduate student housing issues and possible actions plans.

2. Academic Programs and Courses reviewed and approved

During this year, the Council completed the review and approval of 4 new degree programs, 1 degree program change, 15 new courses, and two name changes.

Programs approvals

1. Ph.D. Sport Management (Major Revision)
2. Ph.D. Hospitality and Tourism Management
3. Ed.D. Special Education
4. Dual Degree: MBA/MS Mechanical Engineering
5. Change in Minimum Credit Requirement for MBA from 55 to 37
6. Name change for the Department of Art to the Department of Art, Architecture, and Art History
7. Name change for the MS ART program to MS Design

Course approvals

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| 1. COMM-DIS 540 | 2. CE-ENGIN 667 |
| 3. EDUC 610 | 4. EDUC 628 |
| 5. EDUC 636 | 6. EDUC 637 |
| 7. EDUC 638 | 8. EDUC 646 |
| 9. EDUC 678 | 10. EDUC 659 |
| 11. SCH-MGMT 711 | 12. SCH-MGMT 713 |
| 13. SCH-MGMT 715 | 14. SCH-MGMT 723 |
| 15. SOC 732 | |

3. Ethics Committee

Cutbacks in the budget for the Ethics Committee resulted in no Requests for Proposals being sent out and no conferences funded.

4. Mentoring Committee

Mentoring funding was in a period of transition as these funds were now directed by the Provost and focused in other parts of the University, such as the Center for Teaching. This resulted in cutbacks in the budget for this Mentoring Committee and no conferences or workshops were organized or funded.

5. Fellowship Committee

Graduate School Fellowship program funded 19 incoming students with \$275,000 in fellowship grants. Two (2) Fellowships were granted in the amount of \$17,000, nine (9) Fellowships were granted in the amount of \$15,000, and eight (8) Fellowships were granted in the amount of \$13,250. Three (3) of these incoming students accepted admission and their Fellowship for the 2007-2008 academic year.

Twenty-one (21) Fellowship Grants to current students, from a pool of 71 nominations, were granted for a total funding of \$229,750. Eight (8) grants were made for \$11,250 and thirteen (13) grants were made for \$10,750.

6. Travel Committee

The Committee established some additional guidelines for the dollar amount of the award. International travel awards are for \$400 while domestic travel awards are \$300. There is also a new \$200 regional travel award designation for conferences in New England.

In the Fall, 72 Travel Grants for a total of \$21,000 were granted out of a pool of 79 applications. In the Spring, 70 Travel Grant applications were received. Sixty eight (68) were granted and funded with a total of \$21,343.

It has been mentioned and discussed for the past two years that it is unfortunate that more travel cannot be supported. It was also made clear that there are many more potential travel grants that the Travel Committee never sees because the GPD's are limited in the number of travel grant application that each can submit. Therefore, the potential amount of travel grants not funded certainly exceeds the amount the Travel Committee reports. As a result, the Graduate Council voted to increase the budgetary funding for the Travel Grant Program to \$40,000.

7. ALANA Committee

This Committee addressed the Dean's proposal to spend \$100,000 on Diversity Recruitment as the initial stage in a program to provide graduate study grants to the social science and humanities programs. It has been recognized that NEAGEP (Northeast Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate) is a successful program, funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) that enables students of minority groups to complete graduate study in the science and mathematics disciplines. However, there is a lack of this type of funding for non-science graduate programs at UMASS Amherst.

The current NSF social science program established by the NSF focuses on colleges with large minority populations, which does not include UMASS Amherst. As a result, the Dean and the ALANA Committee attempted to address this need with the \$100,000 Diversity Recruitment Program.

After significant effort and deliberation by the ALANA Committee in April and May, a program was presented to the Council for approval. The Council approved the Diversity Recruitment Program at the May meeting.

8. Student Affairs Committee

A survey of graduate students concerning graduate residential campus housing was completed. In order to address significant concerns raised by this survey, David Vaillancourt, Associate Director of Residential Life, and John Findley, Director of Housing Operations attended the May meeting to discuss graduate student housing issues and possible alternatives and actions plans to address those issues. The meeting represented excellent collaborative and sincere efforts to address the issues. The status of this housing will be again assessed in 2007-2008 academic year.

9. Statute of Limitations Committee (Ad-hoc)

The Statute of Limitations Committee (SOLC) was formed in November, 2005 and was chaired by the Assistant Graduate Dean 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.

While the work of the Committee continued in 2006-2007 year, no new policies were drafted or approved, although several issues and ideas were discussed. The work of the Committee will continue in 2007-2008 under the current chair Patrick Sullivan in order to write and recommend policies.

10. Graduate School Course Development Committee (Ad-hoc)

The National Science Foundation (NSF) requires training in ethics. This Committee was established to investigate this topic and to develop alternatives to meet this NSF requirement. Some initial thinking was that students could possibly take an online course, or series of courses, in ethics at the beginning or prior to the beginning their graduate program here. There is a course under development in the Nanotechnology Department that is designed as an online course. The members of the Committee are Dean John Mullin, Nigar Khan, Linda Shea, and Bill McClure.

This Committee investigated UMASS graduate online policies and concluded they are insufficient to address the Graduate School's current needs. Online policies and practices from other schools such as the University of Maryland were reviewed and studied by the Council. However, it was noted that there are other groups already investigating this online education issue, such as the Faculty Senate's Ad Hoc Committee on Online Learning and the Joint Task Force on Online Learning. As a result, the Council has deferred any further analysis or policy development pending receiving output from these other groups.

11. Bologna Three-Year Degree Impact Analysis Committee (Ad-hoc)

This Committee was established to investigate the impact on UMASS graduate admission policies of the Bologna Accord and its change to the Baccalaureate Degree requirements in the European Union to three years. The following Committee structure was established:

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| 1. Dean Mullin | 2. Tony Butterfield |
| 3. Pat Stowell | 4. One Representative from Nursing |
| 5. One Representative from Engineering | 6. One Student Member |

The Committee has met but has not yet provided any reports to the Council.

12. Other Graduate Council Business

A. The Council approved a Graduate School Policy that requires all doctorate candidates to submit their dissertations electronically. The fee is \$55 and there is an optional \$65 charge for copyrighting it in the student's name. The Council has also made electronic submission of Master Degrees available but not required for students.

B. The Council approved changes to the membership section of its by-laws. Item B was changed to require only a single representative from Smith, Mount Holyoke, Amherst, and Hampshire Colleges. Item C was changed to only require a single representative from the other UMASS campuses of Boston, Dartmouth, Lowell, and Worcester.

C. A “Blue Ribbon” Committee was formed to address concerns about the lack of Graduate Faculty ongoing certification review. Pat Stowell completed an analysis highlighting that the Graduate Dean has not been notified of any reviews in recent history, and perhaps the latest review was in 1985. There is concern that there are 484 “Teach only” faculty, out of a total of 1,500 faculty, who are appointed to teach graduate courses but do not qualify for Graduate Faculty status. Most often these “teach only” faculty teach through Continuing and Professional Education. It was noted that we want to ensure similar quality for on-campus and continuing education graduate courses.

13. Other Graduate School News/Developments

A. The National Research Center (NRC) conducted its Academic Department Ranking Survey this academic year. Thirty-two (32) academic departments on campus were involved in this very important and time-consuming initiative to complete work on the very detailed survey. Only the School of Education and the Isenberg School of Management were not involved in this effort. Marilyn Blaustein coordinated the University’s efforts. This was a very important effort because we have to live with the NRC rankings for 10 years.

The Council was very gratified that almost 100% of faculty members completed and submitted their form for this review. We wish to thank Marilyn Blaustein for her efforts in this initiative. Also, thanks to the Deans for getting involved and helping achieve these results.

B. The need to develop Certificate Programs as an initial step in creating new academic departments in the Graduate School continued to be stressed by the Dean. It was noted that UMASS is last among our peer schools in the number of certificate programs offered. These are the fastest growing type of programs. Recently received Certificate Program initiatives are in History, Social Justice, and Peace. However, the lack of comprehensive Online Education Policies is significantly hindering the development of certificate programs.

C. The Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education Institute (STEM) is now part of the Graduate School.

D. A computer system to monitor, track, and report on the degree progress of every graduate student was begun. The program was implemented on a trial basis in 2006-2007 and several issues and complications have become evident during this trial period resulting in delays in formally introducing the system.

E. Commonwealth College and the Graduate School are discussing collaborating in a Masters of Integrative Studies Program.

F. Dean Mullin and Associate Dean Khan continue to work to develop relationships with International partners. We are near an agreement with the University of Heidelberg to build a facility on campus. Also efforts are continuing with the University of Kuwait.

G. A dinner event was held on Wednesday, November 29, to celebrate and honor Fulbright Scholars. The event was very successful. We hope it will become an annual event. There were 65 Faculty and 24 Graduate students representing scholars from all over the world, including the Middle East. A Fulbright representative from New York attended and explained all the different types of Fulbright programs.

Respectfully submitted by Professor Linda Shea, Chair of the Graduate Council
September 25, 2007