

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
GRADUATE COUNCIL
FOR
ACADEMIC YEAR 2007-2008**

**Presented at the
682nd Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
March 12, 2009**

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Maurianne Adams	William McClure
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Shona Macdonald	Nathan Therien
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	H. Martin Wobst

**Graduate Council of the Faculty Senate
Annual Report 2007-2008**

Summary

The Graduate Council of the Faculty Senate met eight times during the academic year 2007-2008. 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 continued work on three initiatives begun in the prior academic year. These initiatives include 1) implementing a Graduate Student Recruitment and Retention Program for 2007-2008, 2) investigating the status and issues concerning graduate residential housing through ongoing discussions with Graduate Student Senate and UMASS Amherst administration officials, and 3) developing a general requirement for Graduate Ethics Courses. Additionally, the Council evaluated the current Graduate Faculty Status appointment and review procedures and approved a new policy to address current needs. The detailed report follows below.

1. Special Guests Who Attended Council Meetings

Michael Alderman of the Graduate School, who also serves on the ALANA Committee and had an important role in the development and administration of the Graduate Student Recruitment and Retention Initiative, attended several meetings this year.

David Vaillancourt, Associate Director of Residential Life, attended the April meeting as a follow-up to the May 2007 meeting he attended in order to discuss developments over the year and possible future action plans concerning Graduate Student Housing.

Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance Joyce Hatch attended the May meeting to discuss ideas about the future of Graduate Student Housing.

2. Academic Programs and Courses Reviewed and Approved

During this year, the Council completed the review and approval of 3 new degree programs and 6 new courses.

Programs approvals

1. Green Building Masters Program within the Forest Resources Graduate Program
2. The Conservation Biology and Planning Concentration in the Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Graduate Program
3. The Women's Health Nurse Practitioner Concentration within the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program.

Course approvals

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. Education 652/Geo Science 501 | 2. Education 658 |
| 3. Electrical and Computer Engineering 636 | 4. Public Health 750 |
| 5. Public Health 753 | 6. Public Health 757 |

3. Ethics Committee

The Ethics Committee began reorganizing under the new leadership of Anne C. Moore. The committee began to address the task of researching and developing Graduate Research Ethics Courses, work adopted from the Ad Hoc Graduate School Course Development Committee. The National Science Foundation (NSF) requires training in ethics and this work will result in a course or courses to fulfill that requirement.

4. Mentoring Committee

Mentoring funding is currently directed to other departments within UMASS, such as the Center for Teaching. Funding was not appropriated for this mentoring committee; therefore, no conferences or workshops were organized or funded.

5. Fellowship Committee

Graduate School Fellowship program funded 19 incoming students out of 66 applications with \$275,000 in fellowship grants. Ten (10) Fellowships were granted in the amount of \$14,000 and nine (9) Fellowships were granted in the amount of \$15,000.

Twenty-one (16) Fellowship Grants to current students, from a pool of 55 nominations, were granted for a total funding of \$203,000. Thirteen (13) grants were made for \$12,500 and three (3) grants were made for \$13,500.

Lastly, Megan O'Connor from the Department of Natural Resource Conservation was awarded the Joseph L. Boscov Scholarship.

6. Travel Committee

The Travel Committee, under the leadership of Anne C. Moore and Kevin Klement, implemented a new Travel Grant Award electronic submission process in order to address the Federal Internal Revenue Service requirement that all travel expenses be reimbursed within 60 days of the date they were incurred. The Council wishes to thank Josh Kroner for his helpful role in implementing this new procedure through the management of funds transfers to the students.

In the Fall 2007, 71 Travel Grants for a total of \$21,000 were granted out of a pool of 80 applications. In the Spring 2008, 78 Travel Grant applications were received. Sixty eight (68) were granted and funded with a total of \$21,000.

It was again mentioned that there continues to be much more demand for Travel Grants than is budgeted, even though the budget was increased to \$40,000 for the 2007-2008 academic year. 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 applications they are allowed to submit. Therefore, the potential amount of travel grants not funded certainly exceeds the amount the Travel Committee reports.

7. ALANA Committee

This committee implemented the Graduate Student Recruitment and Retention Initiative approved in May 2007. A two-page request for proposal was sent out in the summer of 2007. Fifteen (15) proposals were received and 11 were approved and funded. All funded programs were matched by their respective departments.

In May, 2008, the Graduate Council also approved a specific policy statement concerning the future administration of this program by the ALANA committee and the Graduate Dean.

8. Student Affairs Committee

No activity was reported to the Council for this year.

9. Statute of Limitations Committee (Ad Hoc)

The Statute of Limitation 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, 2006, which provided the median time for completion of a 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 the 2007-2008 year, no new policies were drafted or approved, although several issues and ideas were discussed. The work of the committee will continue under the current chair, Patrick Sullivan, in order to write and recommend policies.

10. Graduate School Course Development Committee (Ad Hoc)

The work of this committee was passed on to the Ethics Committee.

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

This committee was established in the 2006-2007 academic year to investigate the impact on UMASS graduate admission policies (requiring a four-year Baccalaureate Degree) of the Bologna Accord and its change to a three-year Baccalaureate Degree requirement in the European Union. The committee met but has not yet provided any reports to the Council.

12. Other Graduate Council Business

A. Following up on the Graduate School policy approved last year that requires all doctorate candidates to submit their dissertations electronically and made electronic submission of Master Degrees optional but not required, this year the Graduate Council approved policies to require Master theses be electronically submitted with a thesis abstract.

12. Other Graduate Council Business (continued)

B. Pat Stowell led the analysis and review of Graduate Faculty Certification policies and practices. After multiple policy proposals and discussions during the year, in May 2008, the Graduate Council approved a new Policy for Defining and Reviewing Graduate Faculty. The Council especially thanked Pat for her diligent work on this effort.

C. The Graduate Dean reviewed an analysis report titled "Research (RA) Appointments compared with Grant Direct Costs." The review concluded that there has been a 10.8% decrease in the number of RA's used in funded grants in the past three years. There has also been a 38% increase in Grant Direct Costs in the past three years while RA costs have only increased by 5.8% over the same period. He said the Provost understands our frustration with this situation. She acknowledges that we are here to provide education and research training for graduate students and hiring post-docs does not achieve that end. The Dean also said this is one topic that both faculty and the Graduate Employees Organization (GEO) share the same perspective. Follow-up actions with Paul Kostecki, Vice Chancellor for Research, and further analysis comparing our overall costs with peer institutions were planned. It was specially noted that we should include indirect costs in any analysis as well as including benefits (such as medical benefits, because we have one of the best graduate student medical plans in the U.S.)

D. Partially in response to issues identified by the Graduate Council in its review of Certificate Programs and Online Certificate Programs (Film Studies, African Diaspora, and Public History), the Faculty Senate established the Ad Hoc Committee on Certificates on February 14, 2008. Three members of the Graduate Council served on this Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee. Issues identified by the Graduate Council included the current 6 credit limit on transferring certificate credits to matriculated degrees, the issue of the "back-door" acceptance from certificate programs to degree programs, and the issue of online certificates. It was mentioned that changes to academic regulations were going to be necessary. The Ad Hoc Committee on Certificates Committee completed its work in the Summer 2008.

E. In December, the Council approved the new Graduate School policy to eliminate printing the Graduate School Catalogue. Last year, 250 copies were printed and one applicant requested a copy. The Dean said this policy would save \$5,000 each year.

F. Following up on Graduate Council discussions in May 2007, David Vaillancourt, the Associate Director for Housing Assignments and Administration, and Graduate Student Senate (GSS) President Jeff Napolitano and Vice President Rushika Patel worked to develop a proposal to relocate Graduate Student Housing. The primary issue with Graduate Housing at Prince seemed to be a lack of single accommodations. They took a tour of Sylvan, met with architects and developed plans for a \$4-5million renovation of Sylvan.

However, at the GSS vote in February, 11 voted for the proposal, 16 against, and there were 10 abstentions. It was agreed that without a majority agreement, the group of graduate students would not be moved out of Prince. Therefore, the current plan is to stay at Prince without any structural changes to that facility.

12. Other Graduate Council Business (continued)

F. (Continued) Graduate School staff also met with the town managers of Amherst and Hadley about the future of graduate housing in the first of what should be many conversations. Officials from the Town of Hadley expressed great interest in this topic. Many possibilities were discussed, including encouraging the development of cooperative housing.

In May, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance Joyce Hatch attended the Council meeting to discuss ideas about the future of Graduate Student Housing. She indicated that at this point there were many other priorities for UMASS capital spending ahead of graduate housing. She also indicated that discussion with housing developers indicated that there was little interest in graduate housing because of low potential returns. Therefore, revisiting the housing renovation alternative was recommended.

13. Other Graduate School News/Developments

A. The Graduate School held its 100th anniversary celebration on Wednesday, April 9. The celebration included seminars throughout the day led by distinguished Graduate School alumni from the nine schools and colleges within the Graduate School, as well as the Library. The celebration was capped off with a gala banquet and awards ceremony that night at which the distinguished Graduate School alumni received Centennial Scholar Awards. The event was enjoyable and well attended. Nigar Khan and Linda Shea led the efforts to organize and coordinate all of the events.

B. The Grateful Dead event was held in November. It was sponsored by the History Department and was a very successful event. There were 350 attendees and 20 scholarly sessions. The event passed the test for rigor and was successful financially. An article was written about this event published in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*.

The Graduate School is considering a national event about Native American Culture & Learning in Spring 2009. The committee is now being assembled. H. Martin Wobst from the Graduate Council is on the committee. The Dean has already met with Native American representatives.

C. Dean Mullin and Graduate School Staff began working on opportunities and issues associated with putting in place Cotutelle programs. Cotutelle programs are cooperative doctorate programs through which a student simultaneously earns a Ph.D. degree from two universities. Virginia Tech has 50 Cotutelle agreements with European and Australian universities. UMASS Amherst currently has one student who is also studying in Sydney, Australia. This program seems to be working well. There is a current proposal from a university in China for a program in Environmental Science with 25 students. This program was previously partnered with University of San Francisco. The Dean advised the Graduate Council of these issues and informed members that new policies and procedures would later be brought forward for discussion and approval.

Respectfully submitted by Professor Linda Shea, Chair of the Graduate Council
February 26, 2009