

University of Massachusetts Amherst
Graduate Council of the Faculty Senate
D. Anthony Butterfield, Chair
2004-2005

Minutes
Noon, Wednesday, April 13, 2005
Goodell 508

In attendance were Nate Therien, Joya Misra, James Craig, Linda Shea, Jane Baran, Dean John Mullin, Gary Bernhard, Arthur Kinney, Carol Picard, Anne Moore, Tom Heydt-Benjamin, Margara Russotto, Juan Zamora, James Walker, Rama Janaswamy, Tony Butterfield, Terry Porter.

- I. Chair Butterfield called the meeting to order at 12:04.
- II. The minutes of the March 9, 2005 meeting were approved without changes.
- III. Comments by Graduate Dean:
Dean Mullin discussed aspects of the strategic plan for the Graduate School, many of which are already under way or completed. Electronic applications are up and running, paper bulletins have been nearly all replaced by electronic versions, and thesis-on-a-disk and records on disk are in the works. The update of the Policy Manual is almost complete. The entire Graduate School is getting a facelift. The ALANA \$9M grant has been renewed. The alarming drop in international applications is being addressed, in part by joint programs being developed with Pakistan and Vietnam. In addition, a new means of tracking students' progress towards graduation is being developed. The issue of medical insurance for international students is being reviewed in collaboration with the Ad Hoc Committee of the Faculty Senate on the Coordinating Functions and Responsibilities of the International Programs Office.
- IV. Old Business
 - A Graduate Student Quality of Life Survey:
Highlights of the survey include a 35% return rate and 80 pages of written comments, along with crosstabs for any conceivable group on campus. There is an overall satisfaction rate of 80% among graduate students, although 10% of graduate students have no advisor and many are dissatisfied with the advising process. Plans are in place for a quarterly snapshot survey, beginning in the fall.
- V. New Business

A Program/Course Approvals from ASCC:

1. Master of Science in Nursing
2. BIOEPI 571 Physical Activity and Women's Health
3. ENVIRSCI 555 Environmental Toxicology in Context
ENVIRSCI 585 Animal and Environmental Toxicology
4. CMPSCI 686 Reasoning and Acting under Uncertainty

All proposals have been reviewed by the ASCC and recommended for approval by the full Council. The Council voted on each proposal and all were passed unanimously.

VI. Sub-Committee reports

- A. Fellowship – no report.
- B. Ethics – Friday, April 15 is this year's Symposium. The committee will be reviewing new proposals in the current week.
- C. Mentoring – After reviewing all proposals, 5 awards were made for a total of \$44,243. The Symposium and presentations for this year's awardees will be on April 29.
- D. Student Affairs – no report.
- E. Travel – April 27 is the final deadline for the second round of proposals, which should be made in 6 copies. Most of the annual budget was spent in the first round, so more funds will be needed to reach the goal of funding qualified domestic proposals for \$300, international proposals for \$400.
- F. ALANA – still no chair for this committee. It may be reconstituted next year.

VII. Comments from Administrative Officers and Others:

A search is under way for an Associate Provost and Director of International Programs.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:12.

Submitted by Terry Porter.