

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

Minutes
Noon, Wednesday, May 11, 2005
Goodell 508

In attendance were Jim Walker, Rama Janaswamy, Anne Moore, James Craig, Martin Wobst, Maurianne Adams, Arthur Kinney, Jane Baran, Gary Bernhard, Juan Zamora, Julia Beyer, Tom Heydt-Benjamin, Uri Strauss, Tony Butterfield, Terry Porter.

- I. Chair Butterfield called the meeting to order at 12:08 and thanked Dean Mullin and Diane Gerrish for providing the buffet lunch. He also offered congratulations to Dean Mullin from the Council for his new appointment as permanent Graduate School Dean.
- II. The minutes of the April 13, 2005 meeting were approved with minor changes.
- III. Comments by Graduate Dean:
Dean Mullin thanked the Graduate Council for their support in his candidacy for permanent Dean. He noted that an announcement for a replacement for Jim Walker will be advertised very soon. He also noted the critical issue of a \$150K shortfall in the current year's budget, but promised that the travel grants that have been awarded will be fully funded by July 1. In other news, current records are gradually being put into microfiche and the policy manual has been revised and is now on the website. Dean Mullin is looking for a graduate student who would be willing to compile the 70+ pages of comments from the Quality of Life surveys.

**Several items and issues will be carried over into next year. Initiatives with 4 countries are being developed through the IPO office, in ongoing efforts to increase international student presence on the campus. The Masters of Science in Science initiative is going to a task force this summer. There is a NEAGEP initiative for the Social Sciences in the works. Diversity and social justice issues need to be addressed within the Graduate School, and graduate student advising and mentoring should be on the agenda for the fall.

IV. Old Business

- A. Jose Ornelas has volunteered to chair the ALANA Committee. The Council expressed their thanks for this generous commitment.

V. New Business

A Program/Course Approvals from ASCC:

1. Revision of Master of Public Policy and Administration (MPPA). A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the MPPA revision as recommended by the ASCC.
2. PUBHLTH 750 – Public Health Emergency Management
3. PUBHLTH 753 – Current Topics in Public Health Practice
It was moved, second, and passed unanimously to table both proposals until complete documentation has been received by the ASCC.

**It was noted that electronic submission and approval procedures should be formalized—an item for the fall agenda.

VI. Sub-Committee reports

Fellowship – The internal fellowships have been allocated. There were 63 nominations from 36 programs, and 21 awards were made to 21 programs, for a total award of \$173K. The total fellowship award for the year was \$250K. The Boscov fellowship applications were rank-ordered as well, and 3 nominees were forwarded.

** There was a request to put the funding of graduate students onto the fall agenda.

Travel – The committee meets today to make the second round of travel grant awards. The new system seems to have worked this year: no GPDs submitted more than 6 applications, and 33 GPDs submitted at least one. 3 GPDs submitted the maximum of 6 proposals. The distribution across programs was fairly mixed, with 10 Social Science programs represented, 8 from the Humanities, and 15 from the Natural Sciences. Committee Chair Anne Moore would like to get feedback about the new process from GPDs, perhaps through a survey.

** Council Chair Butterfield would like to have a report from the Travel committee in the fall, on the overall process of travel grant nominations and awards.

Mentoring – The April 29 symposium was attended by approximately 35 people, and the quality of projects reported on was very high. The committee is concerned, however, that the program is “preaching to the choir.” Applications for next year were down to 5, and are particularly low from smaller departments that cannot sustain a program beyond the 1-year period of support.

Ethics – The April 15 workshop was attended by about 80 people, for a presentation co-sponsored with Research Affairs in the morning and reports by this year's awardees in the afternoon. The committee has recommended that 3 proposals receive awards for next year. Like the Mentoring committee, this committee is at a point of reevaluating their mission and approach.

Student Affairs – The committee has found it difficult to meet, but Chair Julia Beyer would like to keep the momentum going and organize an event over the summer. The status of the Graduate Lounge in the Campus Center is unclear.

ALANA – no report.

VII. Comments from Administrative Officers and Others

Uri Strauss announced that he will again be president of the GSS next year. There is a new vice-president. He reported that the Graduate Senate tax has had to be raised just to cover the current deficit. The fees are an issue that the GSS would like to take up next year. Other agenda items for next year include social programming, the Graduate Lounge, publishing and distributing the *Voice* more regularly, and generally improving the functionality of the GSS.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25.
Submitted by Terry Porter.

**Issues and Items for Fall Agenda.