

University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Graduate Council of the Faculty Senate
D. Anthony Butterfield, Chair
2005-2006

Minutes of General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, May 17, 2006
Goodell 508

Seventeen (17) individuals attended the meeting. In attendance were Jane Baran, Tobias Baskin, Julia Beyer, Tony Butterfield, James L. Craig, David Dudek, Ramakrishna Janaswamy, Bill McClure, Anne Moore, John Mullin, Phil Nasca, Linda Shea, Patricia Stowell, Uri Strauss, Peter Tamas, Nate Therien, and Martin Wobst

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Butterfield called the meeting to order at 12:05. He congratulated student members leaving, Uri Strauss, Peter Tamas, and Julia Beyer. He also noted that some faculty members are up for renewal of their membership but should be renewed at the Faculty Senate meeting the following day so he was not going to say goodbye to those members. However, he noted that Juan Zamora was retiring and wished him the best.

II. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes from the last meeting on April 19 were approved with a revision to the Ethics Committee report.

III. Comments by the Graduate Dean

Dean Mullin began with a special note about the Graduate Commencement which would start at 1:45PM on Saturday and would be a challenge. He did note that next year's graduation should be more leisurely.

The Dean then reviewed four (4) Graduate School topics of which only one (item "a" below) has been discussed at previous meetings.

a. Diversity Fellowships – Re-establishing this type of program will require a lot of thought. The courts are increasingly saying you cannot use the criteria of "minority demographics" in programs. However, we can have programs for under-represented demographics in our student body.

The Provost wants to push the responsibility of these programs down to the separate schools and departments. This is a major cultural change and is encountering resistance from faculty and students.

It was noted that most of the \$800,000 spent on graduate assistants in under-represented student populations for recruiting and retention goes to the north side (hard sciences) of campus. An extra \$100,000 was requested to fund the program transition on the south side of campus (humanities/social sciences). It is expected that \$925,000 will be spent on this type of program next year.

b. The Office of the Dean has received three requests that it investigate the recent controversial election of a current undergraduate student, who will be a graduate student in the Fall 2006, to be an officer of the Graduate Student Senate (GSS). This is the first time in three years the Dean's office has gotten involved in the internal affairs of the GSS. This matter has been brought to the university ombudsman.

III. Comments by the Graduate Dean (continued)

c. There is a question for the Fall, 2006. Do all graduate courses need graduate course numbers? This question will come up in the context of the Arts Management program, which is #1 in the nation. An Art's certificate program is being considered and the question is "where will it reside?"

d. The Graduate School has no budget yet and there is no money left. As a result, funds have been shut off. Peter Tamas mentioned that adding more transparency to the process of allocating funding could possibly help clarify everyone's understanding of budgetary situations. There was a brief discussion on this topic. It was mentioned that the Master of Education program had a \$750,000 funding shortfall and had no knowledge of it until relatively recently.

IV. Old Business

A. Post-Doc R/A Memo to the Chancellor supporting curriculum fee waiver

Chair Butterfield noted that the memo sent by e-mail to all Graduate Council Members for approval last week passed with one abstention. The memo was sent to the Chancellor and it addressed the increasing use of post-doctorate individuals instead of graduate students as research assistants by supporting the curriculum fee waiver for research assistants. This recommendation serves to reduce the cost of the graduate student research assistants.

B. Joint Authorship Policy

Chair Butterfield noted that the original policy that had been voted and approved through e-mail has now been slightly changed. A short discussion followed and a vote was taken on the revised policy which received unanimous approval.

V. New Business

A. Course Approvals

Linda Shea, co-chair of the Academic Standards and Curriculum Committee (ASCC), initially discussed the several changes to concentrations within the Masters of Public Health (MPH) program. She mentioned the changes were prompted by changes in the accreditation standard in that discipline. She also noted that Phil Nasca made significant efforts to get needed revisions back by Monday so they could be reviewed in order for the programs to get ASCC approval. Linda said the committee now recommended that all the changes within the MPH program be approved by the Council. The changes were then unanimously approved by the Council. Phil Nasca thanked Linda and the ASCC for all their work.

Linda noted that the revisions needed for the course proposal for SCH-MGT 563 were received and that course is now recommended for approval. The Council unanimously approved SCH-MGT 563.

The course proposal for NUTRITION 503, an on-line course, needed no revisions and was recommended for approval. The Council unanimously approved NUTRITION 503.

V. New Business (continued)

A. Course Approvals (continued)

It was noted that the course proposal for HT-MGT 688, a research course, is a revision of a prior submitted proposal. It was recommended for approval and was unanimously approved by the Council.

Linda then briefly discussed the three (3) dual degree MBA program proposals that ASCC reviewed. She noted that these programs can only reduce the total credit requirements for each program by 20%. Although these proposals did need revisions, those revisions have been received and all three are recommended for approval. The Council unanimously approved all three MBA dual degree programs: MBA/MS Civil Engineering, MBA/MS Industrial Engineering, & MBA/MS Environmental Engineering.

Linda thanked David Dudek for his efforts in reviewing the unapproved and inactive course proposals and working with faculty to resubmit or withdraw the proposals.

B. Graduate Council Chairperson

Chair Butterfield accepted Linda Shea's nomination for chairperson of the Graduate Council for the two year term of 2006-2008 Academic years. Nominations were closed and Linda was elected chairperson by acclamation.

C. Other New Business - Graduate Council Meeting Conflict

Uri Strauss discussed that the meeting schedule for the Graduate Council conflicted with UMASS Board of Trustees meetings. He noted that meeting on the second, third, or fourth Wednesday of the month all conflicted with Board of Trustees meetings which are not held in Amherst. As a result, the students who wish to attend the Trustee meetings cannot attend the Graduate Council meeting. Chair Butterfield noted this conflict.

VI. Sub-Committee Reports

A. ASCC – No additional report to that discussed in **Item V-A** above.

B. ALANA - None

C. Fellowship – Martin Wobst provided the report

There were 63 nominations for current graduate student Fellowships. Eighteen Fellowships were funded with no Fellowship funded below \$10,000.

D. Ethics – Martin Wobst and Jane Baran provided the report.

1. The Anthropology Department used an Ethics Committee grant to convene an ethics Conference on April 14. The meeting was very productive and well attended with 60-80 individuals in attendance. Martin thanked the Graduate School and the Ethics Committee for its support.

2. Main efforts of Phil Nasca working with Nanotechnology are “on course”.

VI. Sub-Committee Reports (continued)

E. Mentoring - Jim Craig provided the report

Jim Craig read excerpts from a memo from the Mentoring Committee to Dean Mullin concerning the Mentoring Grant awards for 2006-2007 which the committee recommended to the Dean and which the Dean recently signed. There were 24 mentoring grant proposals received, the largest number of proposals received in the five years of the program. Ten (10) proposals were awarded funding totaling \$40,860.

It was also noted that the Mentoring Committee was going to meet with Dean Mullin and Associate Provost Sorcinelli on May 18 to discuss the funding transition that will occur next academic year. A representative from the Research Council's Research Policy Committee may also attend this meeting because this committee has been considering faculty mentoring activities.

F. Travel – Anne Moore provided the report

This spring semester, 77 travel grant applications were received. Seventeen (17) were turned down. Fifteen (15) were rejected because the department was over their quota. The remaining 45 were funded with a total of \$18,700.

Anne mentioned that, including the \$22,700 funded in the fall, the total travel grants funded for this academic year was \$41,400. She mentioned that committee is preparing a detailed report by department for which there is much interest.

Anne also mentioned that the average award was \$300 for domestic travel and \$400 for international. She noted that with all the excellent applications, the committee could have used another \$10-15,000. However, Dean Mullin mentioned that he needs to defend this program and will need some help from the committee.

It was noted that the research work conference presentations that are supported by these Travel Grants certainly generate more than \$40,000 in research grants for UMASS. It was also noted that the scope of Travel Grant support is limited to presenting research. It was suggested that creative activity needed to be added to the scope of the Travel Grant program.

G. Student Affairs - Julia Beyer provided the Report

The interior design work for the Graduate Lounge has been completed.

H. Statute of Limitations – Pat Stowell provided the report

A report was distributed in which the committee made recommendations as well as provided a quantitative report of "Median Time Lapse from Bachelor's to Doctorate in 2004". The committee recommended and formally made a motion to establish a policy that "a normative time to degree be set by each doctoral program with an added grace period in special circumstances."

A discussion followed in which the committee was asked if it had information from peer institutions. Pat

mentioned they had requested information but had not received any yet.

VI. Sub-Committee Reports (continued)

H. Statute of Limitations (continued)

It was decided that the word “normative” should be removed from the policy statement. The statement was then voted and approved.

A brief discussion of externships followed for which the committee noted additional information was needed in order to establish a policy. It was agreed that the committee should continue next year.

I. Post doctorate/RA Task Force

The Dean and Chair Butterfield thanked Tobias Baskin for taking the lead on this issue and working with the Research Council to prepare the memo that was approved (See Item **IV.A** above) expressing the joint position and recommendation of the Research Council and the Graduate Council. That memo will be sent to the Chancellor.

VII. Comments by Administrative Officers, et al.

A. Bill McClure, Director of Continuing Education, briefly reported the current enrollment statistics for Continuing Education Courses for the Summer Semester. He mentioned that he expected additional enrollment.

Summer 2006 total students – 3,000
Summer Online – 1,600 students in 139 classes
Face-to-face – 1,400 students

Bill also mentioned that the University Faculty Outreach Award program was a well attended event. Lastly, Bill noted that there was a proposal to change the academic calendar for the 2007-8 year.

B. Uri Strauss, the Graduate Student Senate President, said goodbye and thank you to the Graduate Council. He also briefly commented on the Faculty Senate rule change issue and mentioned that it was now resolved.

C. Martin Wobst thanked Chair Tony Butterfield for all his excellent and hard work over the past four years as Chairperson of the Graduate Council. The other members also joined in to thank and praise Chair Butterfield for all his efforts. The Chair acknowledged the sentiment and thanked everyone for their own efforts and contributions.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
David E. Dudek