

University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Graduate Council of the Faculty Senate  
D. Anthony Butterfield, Chair  
2004-2005  
Minutes  
Wednesday September 15, 2004  
Goodell 508

Attending the meeting were: Tony Butterfield, Nate Therien, Tom Heydt-Benjamin, Margharita Russotto, Juan Zamora, Jane Baran, James Craig, Gary Bernhard, Linda Shea, Anne Moore, Jim Walker, Ernie May, Maurianne Adams, Martin Wobst, John Mullin, Arthur Kinney, and Terry Porter.

- I. Chair Butterfield called the meeting to order at 12:03. He welcomed Council members to the new academic year's first meeting, and introduced new student member Tom Heydt-Benjamin.
- II. The minutes of the May 12, 2004, meeting were approved without changes.
- III. Graduate Dean Mullin reported on several matters of interest to the Council. First, national searches will be conducted this year for a permanent Graduate Dean and Associate Dean. Jim Walker will be stepping down on June 30, 2005. Jane Baran will be moving on as well. Dean Mullin will be a candidate for the Graduate Dean position. There is also a new position of Associate Dean for Diversity, filled by Sandy Peterson. Second, credit card processing of graduate student applications will be available by October 1. Thesis-on-a-disk is also coming, and Patrick Sullivan will be invited to the next Council meeting to discuss this. A Quality of Life survey will be going out to all graduate students soon. The GSGS is now fully staffed and running. The Travel Program has been funded and the Graduate School would like to hand it back to the Council with the stipulation that funding must be matched by the deans of each recipient's program. (Chair Butterfield recommended that the Travel Committee revisit the entire Travel Grant process this year). Funding for the Mentoring program remains in place. Dean Mullin also commented on the IPO fee and UMass Online—see below.
- IV. Sub-Committee assignments, including Chairs for this year, were discussed, with some changes made and some additions still needed, particularly by students.
- V. Old Business

The \$65 IPO fee. Dean Mullin reported that the fee has been assessed as an increase in the application fee for the Graduate School, from \$50 to \$65 for international students. (It remains at \$40 for US students. Similarly, there is no increase for international undergraduate students.) In addition, the IPO will be receiving bridge money from the Provost's office to cover the shortfall. In 2003-04, the number of applications decreased (the greatest drop was from India) but the number of students matriculating increased. Obviously the current budget solution is only temporary. It was established through discussion that the office is important to all students, that the shortfall is ~ \$250-300K, that one new revenue source could be a deposit required of international students at the

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time of confirming enrollment. Chair Butterfield and Ernie May will continue to explore the idea of a Council task force.

Online Learning – A Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee has been formed, and Chair Butterfield asked for volunteers to replace him. At this time he will remain on the committee.

Dual Degree Programs—Tweaking by the Council is requested by the President's Office via the Faculty Senate. Chair Butterfield requested the Academic Standards and Curriculum Committee to review this issue. Jim Walker noted that he has a large file on the matter and will meet with the ASCC.

VI. New Business

Course approvals: there are no new course proposals for the Council to review at this time, but the ASCC was handed some new ones to evaluate.

Other new business: the availability of graduate assistantships seems to have declined. It was noted that the pay rate had been increased but the total funds allocated was reduced. It was agreed to investigate this matter, including the availability of other assistantships, and the number of adjunct faculty and post-docs, especially in the sciences.

VII. Sub-Committee reports

Ethics. The Committee will be submitting a proposal to the Council of Graduate Schools on best practices for preparing graduate students in ethics. UMass has been a player in this area and therefore wants to be included in the monograph that this Council is writing.

Mentoring. The FIPSI proposal will again be resubmitted by the Mentoring Committee.

Student Affairs. The committee is seeking student members in order to build an agenda for the year.

VIII. Comments from Administrative Officers and Others, as appropriate

Jim Walker noted that the IPO Committee met four times over the summer and is reconvening early this fall, and that the Fellowship application is being updated.

Jane Baran urged that graduate students be notified and make use of the Graduate Student Grant Service. The Graduate Senate's website is being rebuilt and will include a link to the GSGS.

IX. The meeting was adjourned at 1:20.

*Submitted by Terry Porter*