

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

Minutes
Wednesday October 13, 2004

In attendance were Juan Zamora, Jim Walker, Tamatha Gaumnitz (graduate assistant to the Faculty Senate), Margaritha Russotto, Anne Moore, Martin Wobst, Joya Misra, Rama Janaswamy, Maurianne Adams, John Mullin, Jane Baran, Gary Bernhard, Arthur Kinney, Tom Heydt-Benjamin, Nate Therien, Linda Shea, Jankaj Bansal, James Craig, Terry Porter, Tony Butterfield.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Butterfield welcomed incoming Council members Joya Misra and Rama Janaswamy.

II. Approval of minutes of September 15, 2004, meeting

The minutes of the September meeting were approved with minor changes.

III. Comments by Graduate Dean

Dean Mullin updated several initiatives in process: the climate surveys of graduate students is in its second go-round; the credit card system will be online on November 1; and seamless (and largely online) application procedures are in the works. The annual meeting of Graduate Program Directors went well; Dean Mullin would like to acknowledge their contributions more publicly. Finally, Dean Mullin raised the issue of plagiarism on campus. After some discussion it was clear to the Council that this issue is one that must be addressed by the entire group this year.

IV. Old Business

A. "Final" subcommittee assignments for this year were made. Students are still needed for one or two committee slots.

B. Revisions to the Student Travel Grant program

The Travel Committee distributed a memo on the revised procedure for this year. In brief, the GPDs are now empowered to screen the applications they receive and forward up to 6 to the Committee during the year. Awards will be made to the student rather than the project, and prioritized for the presentation's merit, the

event's prestige, and the student's need. There are two application periods, with deadlines of 11/17/04 and 4/27/05. A student link to the travel grant program has been added to the GSGS website. Funding has been decreased this year from \$35K to \$20K, though Dean Mullin noted that this amount could possibly be increased if necessary. Maurianne Adams requested that the GPDs report the total number of applications from their programs to the Travel Committee.

Chair Butterfield expressed the Council's thanks to the Committee and Chair Anne Moore.

C. Dual Degree Programs – proposal from Academic Standards & Curriculum Committee

Jim Walker and the ASCC presented a proposal for the Faculty Senate (via the Provost's office) which provides for keeping the Dual Degree option open. The proposal details the procedures to be followed by two cooperating master's degree programs in applying to the Graduate Council and the Faculty Senate. It includes provisions for courses, theses (if any), and saving of no more than approximately 20% of the degree credit requirements of the combined programs. After some discussion, a motion was made and unanimously passed to approve the proposal.

New Business

A. Course approvals

The ASCC presented a course proposal from Communication Disorders for a new course, ComDis 647, titled Implantable Auditory Prostheses. The Committee has approved the proposal and recommends that the Council do the same. A motion was made and unanimously passed to that effect.

Plagiarism: A discussion about the need to bring plagiarism on campus to the Council's attention this year brought out several relevant points. Three causes were mentioned: wholesale copying where the student doesn't understand what he or she is doing; internet lifting, and laziness. Tom Heydt-Benjamin mentioned that T.A.'s also have problems with plagiarism. Dean Mullin will send a note about the topic to Chair Butterfield. He and Jane Baran offered to make a presentation to the Council at the next meeting

V. Sub-Committee reports as necessary, if not already covered above

Ethics—A joint program with Research Affairs is in the planning stages. More information will be forthcoming at the next Council meeting.

VI. There were no additional comments from Administrative Officers.

VII. The meeting adjourned at 1:06.

Submitted by Terry Porter