

University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Graduate Council of the Faculty Senate
Linda Shea, Chair
2008-2009

Minutes of General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, October 15, 2008
Goodell 528

Twenty Two (22) individuals attended the meeting. Bruce Wilcox, Director of UMASS Press, Marilyn Billings from the Library, and Patrick Sullivan of the Graduate School were invited guests. Members also attending were Jane Baran, Leslie Horner Button, James L. Craig, David Dudek, Nigar Khan, Arthur Kinney, David Kotz, Augusta Mfuko, Bill McClure, John Mullin, Jose Ornelas, Nahir I. Otano-Gracia, Stephen Rich, Linda Shea, Howard Stidham, Pat Stowell, Nate Therien, Judy van de Geer, and H. Martin Wobst.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Linda Shea called the meeting to order at 12:02 PM and especially welcomed new members and our guests, Bruce Wilcox and Marilyn Billings. Chair Shea also thanked Dean John Mullin for providing support and money to help a fund drive to assist the family of a UMASS student from the Isenberg School of Management who was hospitalized.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the September 10, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously with a typographical error correction.

III. Comments by the Graduate Dean

A. The Dean mentioned organizational changes being made by and recently communicated by the new Chancellor. First, Paul Kostocki has been appointed the Interim Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement. Also, the Financial Aid and Admissions offices are being made part of the academic side of campus which should help the coordination of course availability.

It was mentioned that the Graduate School was not touched by the first round of changes. Dean Mullin did say that Chancellor Holub did think the Graduate School is underfunded and he seems interested in the Graduate School.

B. UMASS is starting the 10-year reaccreditation review. The Graduate School has been assigned the leadership in this effort. The Dean said this will require a great deal of work and he would ask the Graduate Council as well as the other Deans for help.

III. Comments by the Graduate Dean (continued)

C. Dean Mullin reviewed a comprehensive slide presentation made to the Chancellor providing a “snapshot” of the Graduate School. The Dean also distributed copies of this presentation. The presentation communicated the vision of the Graduate School as well as accomplishments, current status, ongoing initiatives, and current issues. A few of the items highlighted:

- Affinity Dinners with faculty seem to have a good deal of interest. So far we have held 14 with 195 faculty attending;
- Graduate School Grant Service spending is only about \$45,000 while we get at least \$1,500,000 in graduate student grants;
- UMASS graduates 57% of graduate student within 10 years which is the same as the national average. We would like to improve this;
- Curriculum Fee has increased by 338% in the last 7 years;
- Several action plans were identified, including changing the Graduate Fellowship Program, revitalizing graduate student mentoring, developing cotutelle options, and funding a study to develop graduate student housing options.

D. The Provost has asked for a “right sizing” analysis for academic departments to help determine appropriate and required resource levels within UMASS.

IV. Old Business

A. Open Access

Bruce Wilcox, Director of UMASS Press began the discussion. He said that many revised dissertations are still being published within the Open Access environment. He said there is a lot of work to turn a dissertation into a book. There are still 128 University Presses in the U.S.

He provided an Open Access Policy example from the University of Iowa which gives students the option not to participate in Open Access. He did mention that he was a big supporter of Scholar works and his recommendation to provide students the ability to opt out of Open Access does not diminish his support.

A discussion followed in which specific student and dissertation situations were discussed. It seemed the conclusion reached is that there was agreement with Bruce Wilcox and the overall support of Open Access but there was a need to provide students an ability to opt out. Bruce did clarify that filing paper copies of original dissertations was not considered “publishing” dissertation.

The discussion continued concerning various needs for dissertation security. Patrick Sullivan did confirm that students do have the ability to embargo, or totally restrict all access to, the dissertation. Bruce Wilcox also mentioned that there are 5 levels of creative common licenses, such as “share and share alike with commercial use and attribution” and “share and share alike with no commercial use and attribution.” Another point made was why can’t the access status be changed after a certain amount of time has elapsed.

The result of this discussion was that Patrick Sullivan and Marilyn Billings were asked to revise the Dissertation Distribution License to include all the options discussed so it was a comprehensive and finalized document on which the Graduate Council could vote. The topic was then tabled until the next meeting.

B. Curriculum Fee

Chair Linda Shea began this discussion by reviewing the memo about the curriculum fee written by David Ostendorf of the Research Council dated August 15, 2008 which documented the impact the curriculum fee has on the hiring of post doctorates rather than graduate students. Chair Shea, also a member of the Research Council, said she agreed to bring this issue to the Graduate Council. The view articulated in this memo, she said, has been expressed to the new Chancellor. Because of this visibility, Dean Mullin said that the Graduate Council does need to take a position on this issue.

A brief discussion of possible ways to address this issue followed. David Kotz asked how we could possibly change the incentives in hiring a research assistant. An idea about charging post doctorates similar fees as the RA's was made.

The Dean asked that the Graduate Council form an ad-hoc committee to address this issue. He said that having active researchers on the committee would be important. The Dean said he would work to identify and enlist faculty to serve on this committee.

V. New Business

A. Changing the Room for Graduate Council meetings

It was mentioned the Goodell 508, the traditional room for Graduate Council meetings was too small to comfortably hold all the individuals now attending Graduate Council meetings. It was suggested that a large conference room at the offices of Professional and Continuing Education be considered. The fact that this building was not on the main campus was cited as an issue. It was decided that we would continue to use Goodell 528 for the November and December meetings while researching other alternatives.

B. New Course & Program Review by Academic Standards and Curriculum Committee (ASCC)

Arthur Kinney said that the ASCC had approved three Computer Science courses, COMPSCI 513, COMPSCI 529, and COMPSCI 673 and recommended that the Graduate Council approve these courses. All three courses were approved unanimously.

Arthur also said the ASCC reviewed Graduate Certificate Programs. It was initially thought that the Public History Graduate Certificate matriculating student eligibility limitation did not conform to the new Faculty Senate policy. However, the Faculty Senate policy was clarified and it was determined that while graduate certificate can be open for non-matriculating individuals eligibility restrictions can be made by the program proposal. As a result, the Public History Graduate Certificate Program was recommended for approval and passed unanimously.

V. New Business (continued)**B. New Course & Program Review by ASCC (continued)**

Arthur also mentioned that the Film Studies and African Diaspora Graduate Certificate proposals were reviewed. Changes were sought for each of these programs. No response has yet been received for the African Diaspora proposal, but a response has been received and reviewed for the Film Studies program. As a result, the Film Studies Graduate Certificate Program was recommended for approval and approved unanimously. Lastly, Arthur mentioned that the ASCC was still in the process of reviewing the ACERT report presented to the Council in September and would report back on this review in December.

C. Graduate Faculty Status Policy

Dean Mullin mentioned that his office has been deluged by issues concerning the new Graduate Faculty Policy about who can serve as a member of a dissertation committee. It was said that all nine deans of the UMASS schools and colleges disagree with this new policy. As a result the Dean made a motion that the Graduate Council reconsider the Graduate Faculty Status Policies approved in May. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Committee Reports

- A. ASCC – See New Business Item B above.
- B. ALANA – No report
- C. Fellowship – No report
- D. Ethics – Jane Baran mentioned that the loss of Anne C. Moore, the former chair of this committee, has resulted in the loss of some materials and work product. She also questioned the interest level of members of this committee.
- E. Special Admission – No report
- F. Student Affairs – It was said that work on student affairs matters, such as graduate housing, was taking place outside of the Graduate Council and that the Council need not be involved at this time.
- G. Mentoring – No report
- H. Travel – Linda Shea said the Travel program has been reorganized.
- I. Statute of Limitations (ad-hoc) – No report
- J. Graduate School Course Development (ad-hoc) – No report
- K. Bologna Accord Impact Assessment (ad-hoc) - No report

VII. Comments from Administrative Officers and Others

None

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
David E. Dudek