

University of Massachusetts at Amherst  
Graduate Council of the Faculty Senate  
Linda Shea, Chair  
2006-2007

Minutes of General Membership Meeting  
Wednesday, November 8, 2006  
Goodell 508

Seventeen (17) individuals attended the meeting. Tara Lindros from the Faculty Senate office attended. Also in attendance were Jane Baran, Tony Butterfield, James L. Craig, Benessa Defend, David Dudek, Ramakrishna Janaswamy, Nigar Khan, Sylvia Langford, Anne C. Moore, Jeff Napolitano, Carol Picard, Arslan Razmi, Margara Russotto, Linda Shea, Patricia Stowell, and Juan Zamora.

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Linda Shea called the meeting to order at 12:04 PM.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Two revisions were made to the minutes from the last meeting on October 11, 2006. The first clarified the cost of electronic Ph.D. submission and the second clarified the cost of Graduate School applications. The minutes were then approved unanimously.

**III. Comments by the Graduate Dean**

In Dean Mullin's absence, Associate Dean Nigar Khan provided these comments.

- a. National Research Council Academic Department Ranking Survey - This continues to be the big news and the major effort of the fall.
  
- b. Graduate student tracking system - The computerized tracking system has been running this semester. However, we are now coming to the realization that implementing the tracking system is a bit more complicated than anticipated. One of the complications is the part-time students in the School of Education and the Isenberg School of Management. Also, graduate education is not structured in the same manner throughout the university. We will be meeting with different schools and departments over the next few weeks to determine how to move forward with this system.
  
- c. Celebrating Fulbright Scholars – There has been an enthusiastic response to this dinner event which will be held on Wednesday, November 29. We expect it to become an annual event.
  
- d. Bologna Accord – Pat Stowell discussed the manner in which UMASS is looking to understand the impact of the Bologna Accord on U.S. Admissions. Pat mentioned she and Dean Mullin have attended a workshop. She distributed and reviewed a one-page handout. It was mentioned that the purpose of the effort is to establish consistent standards to facilitate student exchange between the colleges in the European Union and the U.S. Questions we still need to answer include “Will students with a 3-year degree be ready for graduate study at UMASS” and “how do we evaluate student qualifications”.

### **III. Comments by the Graduate Dean (continued)**

#### **d. Bologna Accord (continued)**

Chair Shea asked if the three year degree is missing a year of general education which is required here. A brief discussion followed which seemed to conclude that the European education model has more concentration on the students' major field of study which reflects a more focused approach rather than a broad education approach.

It was also noted that the Dean requested a Graduate Council Committee be formed to address this issue. Forming this committee was postponed to later in the meeting. (See Old Business – Item C)

### **IV. Old Business**

#### **A. Committee Funding and Status**

Jane Baran noted that cutbacks in the Ethics Committee and the Mentoring Committee budgets required changes in the activities of these committees. Jane noted that there will be no Request for Proposals for either committee's programs this year since there is no current funding to continue those programs. Jim Craig also noted that the Mentoring Committee has not been meeting. He noted that there is a tentative agreement for funding a T/A to complete a mentoring reporting project. He said this committee and its work was in a period of transition.

Jeff Napolitano mentioned that he will forward the names of students to fill the student member vacancies on Graduate Council Committees.

Jane Baran raised that issue that some current non-Graduate Council members of the Ethics Committee, and perhaps other committees, may no longer be interested in serving on the committee. This issue was discussed and it was concluded that the responsibility to contact the members of each committee to ensure interested and active committee membership should be delegated to the committee chairs.

#### **B. Committee Chairperson Changes**

Anne C. Moore agreed to serve as the Chair of the Ethics Committee if she could resign her position on the Student Affairs Committee. Carol Picard agreed to serve as Chair of the Student Affairs Committee and Sylvia Langford agreed to serve as a member of the Student Affairs Committee.

#### **C. New Bologna Three-Year Degree Ad-hoc Committee**

The following structure of this new ad-hoc committee was discussed and established. Three individuals also agreed to serve on the committee.

1. Tony Butterfield
2. Dean Mullin
3. Pat Stowell
4. One Representative from Nursing – Carol Picard agreed to recruit an individual.
5. One Representative from Engineering
6. One Student Member to be named later

## **V. New Business**

### **A. Course and Program Approvals**

1. Communication Disorders 540 - It was noted that required changes to the original proposal have been received. The Academic Standards and Curriculum Committee (ASCC) recommended approval. The Graduate Council unanimously approved the course.
2. Education 610 – No changes were required. The ASCC recommended approval. The Graduate Council unanimously approved the course.
3. Electrical and Computer Engineering 667 - It was noted that this is currently an experimental course which is seeking to become a permanent course. Needed requirements have already been received so the ASCC recommended approval. The Graduate Council unanimously approved the course.
4. Education 702 – It was noted that this was proposed as a seminar course. However, the ASCC determined this was not an appropriate seminar course. The ASCC has communicated with the originating faculty member to request that the course be renumbered and then approved as a 600 series course. The ASCC recommended that the course be provisionally approved as a 600 series course, not as Education 702, as we await the new course number and its signature page. The Graduate Council unanimously voted to provisionally approve the course as an Education 600 series course as we awaited for the revised signature page.
5. Dual Degree Program MBA/MS Mechanical Engineering  
It was noted that this program was similar to other dual MBA programs previously approved. The ASCC recommended approval. The Graduate Council unanimously approved the program.

### **B. Graduate Application Deadline**

Tony Butterfield began discussing the topic by noting that, from his perspective, graduate programs could be losing good new candidates because of our February 1 application deadline which is later than peer institutions. However, Pat Stowell noted that graduate student application deadlines vary by program. There is one program that actually has a December 15 application deadline. Pat also noted that there is one program, the Professional MBA program (PMBA), that wants a later deadline, for instance possibly in July.

Pat continued to discuss that departments are asked to set their application deadlines every year. Those departments that do not respond are assigned the February deadline. Tony Butterfield expressed his satisfaction with the flexibility of the application deadline. He indicated he had previously not been aware of this flexibility. As this discussion concluded, it was mentioned that there may be some source of conflict between the various application deadlines and the Graduate Fellowship Program schedule of reviewing and making awards.

**VI. Committee Reports**

- A. ASCC – See “New Business - Item A” above.
- B. ALANA – Chair Shea made an announcement that there is a series of ALANA Roundtable discussions about diversity and discrimination being held over the next few weeks coordinated and sponsored as a joint effort by the Graduate Student Senate and Graduate Employees Organization.
- C. Fellowship - None
- D. Ethics - None
- E. Mentoring - None
- F. Travel - The Committee is expecting to receive travel grants from the Graduate School Office for evaluation soon.
- G. Special Admission - None
- H. Student Affairs - None
- I. Ad-hoc Statute of Limitations - None
- J. Ad-hoc Graduate School Course Development - None

**VII. Comments from Administrative Officers and Others**

None

**VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
David E. Dudek