

University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Graduate Council of the Faculty Senate
Linda Shea, Chair
2007-2008

Minutes of General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, November 14, 2007
Goodell 508

Eighteen (18) individuals attended the meeting. In attendance were Graduate Council members Maurianne Adams, Ann Cary, David Dudek, Nigar Khan, Arthur Kinney, Ernie May, Anne C. Moore, John Mullin, Natalie Neubert, Michael Odoi, Jose Ornelas, Stephen Rich, Linda Shea, Howard Stidham, Patricia Stowell, Nate Therien, Daniel Wang, and H. Martin Wobst.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Linda Shea called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM.

II. Approval of Minutes

It was noted that Daniel Wang did not agree to serve as the Travel Committee Chair, so that entry was deleted. The revised minutes were then approved unanimously.

III. Comments by the Graduate Dean

Dean John Mullin reviewed and discussed three items.

a. GEO Contract Negotiation Issues - Diversity

There are four critical issues in the contract negotiations – diversity, rollback of fees, childcare, and control of student spaces. The issue of diversity directly bears upon the working of the Graduate Council so this will be the issue discussed here.

GEO has much concern about the \$800,000 we spend on diversity and they are focusing on transparency. \$600,000 is spent on the STEM disciplines and serves as the matching funding against the \$600,000 we receive from the NSF for the NEAGEP grant. This program is a joint effort by the Graduate School and the individual academic departments. The Graduate School funds graduate years 1 & 5 and the academic department funds years 2,3,&4.

\$100,000 is used for the new diversity recruiting purposes. Jose Ornelas indicated that the final report for this program is not yet complete but he did mention that 10 different grants were funded for a total of \$98,000.

\$ 100,000 is kept in reserve by the Dean and is spent on special diversity needs that arise throughout the year. Last year AFROAM department received \$45,000 and the English department received \$20,000.

Jeff Napolitano said there are two issues. The first is that money was shifted from the Diversity Fellowship program to NEAGEP without a student-involved process. The second is a concern that the \$100,000 for diversity recruiting is not directly supporting individual diversity student graduate study. Jeff said that the strike and protest march are intended to move the critical issues up to a greater sense of urgency. The activities planned are peaceful and non-violent.

III. Comments by the Graduate Dean (continued)

b. Springfield Initiative

Springfield is getting to be a higher and higher priority. Paul Kostecki is organizing efforts to get UMASS more involved. Governor Patrick has made a request for UMASS to get more involved with Springfield. He has said to us personally that he needs us in Springfield. But there are two key questions – where are the resources going to come from to fund these efforts and how are faculty going to be paid for their efforts. We cannot force faculty to be involved. They must be rewarded for their efforts.

The Graduate School definitely will be involved – for example, we could fund a “Springfield Scholars” program. Nursing and Education have been point departments in the past. It was noted that we should work to better present our past contributions to Springfield. However, it was also noted that Springfield has made it clear that old efforts did not work well for them and they do not want episodic efforts.

Ernie May commented that Springfield is bankrupt and the state runs the city. He reasoned that the demise of the Springfield Armory is the major reason for these problems and a replacement business is needed. For instance, the Life Science Institute could be housed in Springfield. However, it was noted that Worcester will receive a large portion of the Life Sciences initiative.

Jeff Napolitano noted that GSS is recommitting itself to outreach in Springfield through the Student Bridges program which is student funded. It was also noted that all the Deans are currently collecting information about Community Service Learning (CSL). Nate Therien noted that there has been a five-college CSL committee for many years which has been very effective. They have also tagged on to the Student Bridges program. Additionally, Nate noted that Amherst College has a \$13 million grant for CSL.

The Dean also noted a proposal to move the Art Department down to Holyoke required new transportation which did not seem to be forthcoming.

c. Graduate School Certificate Programs

Associate Dean Nigar Khan said that development work was continuing but said there was some confusion and frustration about the program proposal requirements and process. It was mentioned that Brian Harvey and the Academic Matters Committee are the experts on the process to approve new programs.

Ernie May said that there should be no confusion because these matters concerning certificate programs were included in the work of the Joint Task Force for Online Learning. He said that although the process may seem cumbersome, you must take into account that this process is derived from University Trustees policies and Amherst campus policies.

The topic of Cotuielle and our need to fully include it in our policies was briefly discussed. Cotuielle is the designation given when a student earns two doctorate degrees at two universities at the same time. We currently have one student who is also studying in Sydney Australia.

IV. Old Business**A. Graduate School 100th Anniversary Event**

Wednesday, April 9, 2008 is the date for the 100th Anniversary gala. Linda Shea is the CEO leading the event and the arrangements for it. There are nine (9) colleges with Graduate studies at UMASS Amherst and each will be selecting one distinguished alumni/alumnae who will speak and receive a Graduate School Centennial Award. We will be meeting with Dean's representatives from each college to work on developing this selection process. There will also be a keynote speaker. This will be a fun event that you will want to attend.

V. New Business

None was discussed

VI. Committee Reports

A. ASCC – Arthur Kinney provided the report. There are no courses or programs that the committee for the Councils consideration. We have reviewed six proposals and sent back all for revisions. Also, the ASCC is working with Nigar to understand coordinate work on criteria for Graduate Certificates.

B. ALANA – Jose Ornelas discussed that the committee has met and has allocated funds. A full report is forthcoming.

C. Fellowship –No report was made.

D. Ethics – Have not met yet.

E. Special Admission – No report was made.

F. Student Affairs – No report was made

G. Mentoring – No report was made.

VI. Committee Reports (continued)

H. Travel – Anne C. Moore provided the report. She mentioned that the committee has received needed help with the new online processing from a student working at the graduate school.

I. Statute of Limitations (ad-hoc) – No report was made.

J. Graduate School Course Development (ad-hoc) – No report was made.

K. Bologna Accord Impact Assessment (ad-hoc) – No report was made. However, in response to a question, Dean Mullin explained that the Bologna Accord is a European Union (EU) agreement which changes the Bachelors degree to a 3 year degree by eliminating the General Education requirement. Those courses were eliminated because it is felt that they have been covered in their secondary schools. We will recognize their degree, but will still evaluate each application on a case by case basis. An issue certainly to come up will be those students who graduated from high school in the U.S. but went to college in the EU.

VII. Comments from Administrative Officers and Others

None

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
David E. Dudek