

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

Minutes of General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, November 12, 2008
Goodell 528

Sixteen (16) individuals attended the meeting. Marilyn Billings from the Library was an invited guests. Members also attending were Leslie Horner Button, James L. Craig, Derek Doherty, David Dudek, Robin Gray, Nigar Khan, Arthur Kinney, David Kotz, Bing Liang, Ernie May, Bill McClure, John Mullin, Linda Shea, Pat Stowell, and Judy van de Geer.

I. Welcome and Introductions

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

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October 15, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously with a typographical error correction.

III. Comments by the Graduate Dean

A. The Graduate School budget has been cut by \$17,000. This amount is the least of any budget unit. The Chancellor seems to have taken into consideration that we have been flat budgeted for a long time. However, there are ongoing discussions about additional future budget cuts.

B. The results of the NRC evaluation are being pushed back again – from November to January.

C. The Graduate School has been assigned the leadership in the UMASS accreditation effort. The Deans are compiling their information while Nigar Khan is collecting it. Our report must be ready by February.

D. Chancellor Holub has asked us to take a look at some data points related to Graduate Education. Specifically he has asked us to look at outcomes for students. We currently gather no information about where our graduates go. He also has asked us to look at the number of doctoral students for each faculty member. Using this type of measurement, it can be noted that Ohio State has ½ of the number of doctoral students per faculty member as Wisconsin.

The Graduate Council will eventually be involved in all of these four efforts.

E. There is an ongoing effort to improve the Graduate School website and making it a bit more “slick”.

F. GEO negotiations are very reasonable but the issues are tough. There is a question whether there will be any wage increase.

III. Comments by the Graduate Dean (continued)

G. Some personnel searches have been started. The Provost search has begun as well as the Vice Chancellor of Research and Engagement search. There was a short discussion about the difference in the terms “engagement” and “outreach”. It was noted that nationally the term engagement is more common than outreach although it is a bit confusing on campus right now.

IV. Old Business

A. Open Access

Pat Stowell distributed the proposed Non-Exclusive Dissertation/Thesis and Distribution License with revisions for an additional three options for students to choose the timing of making their work available. There was a brief discussion and an inquiry about when the students would be required to complete this form. It was noted that this would be part of the electronic submission process. The proposed Distribution License and associated policy was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved.

B. Curriculum Fee

Linda Shea, who is also on the Research Council, informed the Graduate Council that there is a subcommittee within the Research Council that is charged with investigating this issue in depth. It was noted that Stephen Rich, a member of the Graduate Council, and Associate Dean of the Graduate School Nigar Khan also serve on the Research Council. Therefore, it was decided that the Graduate Council should wait until the Research Council finishes its work before it addresses this issue and takes a position.

V. New Business

A. New Course & Program Review by Academic Standards and Curriculum Committee

Arthur Kinney said that the ASCC approved three courses, CE-ENGIN 614 – Advanced Concepts in Traffic Safety, Nursing 725 – Leadership In Health Care, Public Health 725/Nursing 725 – Leadership in Health Care. He recommended that the Graduate Council approve these courses. All three courses were approved unanimously.

Later, Arthur informed the Council that changes to Computer Science 577 had been received. Members of the ASCC quickly voted and approved the course. Approval of the course was moved and seconded and unanimously approved by the Graduate Council.

Arthur also informed the Council that Kimberly Fuller, a student, had agreed to serve on the ASCC. It was noted that it has been some time since a student has served on the ASCC and the importance of Kimberly’s perspective was acknowledged.

Although the ASCC did not report back on the ACERT report, a brief discussion of the philosophical justification for Graduate Certificates followed. It was noted that there are lots of certificates that are similar to Community College work and that UMASS must ensure that our Graduate Certificate Programs have more intellectual depth.

V. New Business (continued)**B. Appointment of Graduate Council Representative to the Faculty Senate Capital Asset Task Force**

Linda Shea introduced this topic and noted that the Dean will be on the Task Force. Both Linda and the Dean noted that we need a strong advocate for the Graduate School on the Task Force. The Graduate School has not previously had a role in this part of the planning process. This is the reason the representative on this Task Force is so important.

Ernie May explained that Wilson Architects is currently evaluating all research space on campus. There also is a proposed \$2,000,000 project to review all teaching space on campus which has not been awarded yet. There is also a Historic Preservation Report that is in process. Ernie also explained that the Capital Asset Board is relatively small at 5 people and is led by Joyce Hatch.

Dean Mullin mentioned that his office gets many complaints from students that there is not enough space for students. He said that a key element of this Task Force is to look at what it means to be a 21st century university. It is time for the Graduate School to move forward.

A brief discussion of other UMASS institutions involved in the budget and resource allocation evaluation process followed. The Academic Priorities Council reviews new programs and plays a very important role if there are big budget cuts otherwise there is not much for them to do. The Program Budget Council reviews budgets of the University. It also reviews new programs and ensures that resources are appropriately aligned to support the courses students want to take.

No members of the Graduate Council volunteers to serve on this Task Force. The Dean asked Linda to meet with him later to discuss possible Graduate Council representatives.

VI. Committee Reports

A. ASCC – See New Business Item A above.

B. ALANA – No report

C. Fellowship – No report. However, Dean Mullin informed the Graduate Council that he will be proposing some changes to the Fellowship program.

D. Ethics – No report

E. Special Admission – No report

F. Student Affairs – No report

G. Mentoring – The Dean has met with Jim, Jane, and Gary about reactivating the mentoring committee. The Dean said he will be coming back with a proposal. However, there is no money to fund activities right now.

VI. Committee Reports (continued)

H. Travel –It was noted that 15-20 applications have been approved this academic year.

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

A. Bill McClure provided some information on Professional and Continuing Education enrollment. He noted that summer registrations increased 7-8% while Fall registrations also increased about 8%.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
David E. Dudek