

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

Minutes of General Membership Meeting  
Wednesday, December 12, 2007  
Goodell 508

Twenty Six (26) individuals attended the meeting. Michael Alderman from the Graduate School attended. Also, in attendance were Graduate Council members Maurianne Adams, Jane Baran, Ann Cary, James L. Craig, David Dudek, Nigar Khan, Arthur Kinney, Kevin Klement, Sylvia Langford, Bing Liang, Ernie May, Bill McClure, John Mullin, Jeff Napolitano, Natalie Neubert, Linus M. Nyiwul, Michael Odoi, Arslan Razmi, Stephen Rich, Linda Shea, Howard Stidham, Patricia Stowell, Nate Therien, Martin Wobst, and Judy Wong.

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

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

**II. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes were approved with no changes.

**III. Comments by the Graduate Dean**

Dean John Mullin reviewed and discussed several items.

**a. GEO Contract Negotiation Update**

We reached a tentative agreement but the GEO membership voted it down.

Jeff Napolitano, reporting as a member of GEO who observed the GEO membership meeting, noted that the issue with the 1 year contract was that the increase in wages was under the inflation rate. The issues with the 2 year contract was that the wage increase was tied to a cut in two positions at GEO as well as the lack of funding to increase childcare vouchers.

Maurianne Adams asked if there was any discussion about the number of assistantships versus the total funding dollars.

The Dean commented that GEO seemed concerned about the current members and the quality of life. He wondered out loud what has happened to the 7% decrease in students who no longer have RA's. He speculated that they have been picked up by non-discipline R/A's, such as housing and project assistants. There has been no net decline in the number of R/A's and T/A's, although the number of T/A's have decreased for certain departments.

**b. Springfield Initiative**

Springfield is continuing to increase in priority. The Dean mentioned that he is meeting two times with the Chancellor on this topic and that he has been asked to write a grant proposal pertaining to this initiative. We are preparing a plan to make a plan to formulate this initiative. We know that there will be investment required but we are not sure of the source of the funding.

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

#### **b. Springfield Initiative (continued)**

Ernie May noted that we might be able to learn something from UMASS Lowell and UMASS Dartmouth. Lowell has viewed economic development of the local area as a primary point of its mission. Dartmouth has published a 400-page promotional book of what they have done.

Ernie stated that Springfield is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest city in New England and the only city in receivership.

#### **c. Graduate School Certificate Programs**

The efforts to develop certificate programs are beginning to bear fruit. Two are now ready for review, film studies and public history. We want to facilitate the ability of faculty to navigate the program approval process. It was noted that the program approval process is derived from the UMASS Board of Trustees policies and the policies of the State Board of Higher Education.

Ernie May noted that Brian Harvey is an expert on this topic and he properly routes proposed programs to the appropriate groups for approval. The Dean mentioned that the Graduate School has hired a graduate student to document this program approval process.

#### **d. Cotutelle**

Cotutelle 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. This program seems to be working well. We want to be robust at addressing this need. Virginia Tech has 50 Cotutelle agreements with European and Australian universities. We have hired a graduate student to work on this topic. Currently, we have no time line established for this project, but we do think it is important.

#### **e. Graduate School Catalogue**

The Dean made a motion that the Graduate School eliminate printing the Graduate School Catalogue. He mentioned the last year we printed 250 and that 1 applicant requested a copy. Additionally, the Dean said we would save \$5,000 each year. The motion was approved with one abstention.

#### **f. Grateful Dead Event**

This was a very successful event. There were 350 attendees and 20 scholarly sessions. The event passed the test for rigor and was successful financially. An article was written about this event in the Chronicles of Higher Education. We love this type of idea. Next year, there is a possibility of developing a program focused on the Salem Witches.

#### **g. Graduate Housing**

We have met with the town managers of Amherst and Hadley about the future of graduate housing in the first of what should be many conversations. Hadley was very interested in this topic. We discussed many possibilities, including encouraging the development of cooperative housing. It was discussed that we should invite Joyce Hatch to discuss the future of Graduate Housing. Linda Shea said she would take the initiative to invite Joyce.

#### **IV. Old Business**

##### **A. Graduate School 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event**

Wednesday, April 9, 2008 is the date for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary gala. Nigar Khan is the CEO and Linda Shea is the COO leading the event and working to make 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 get award nominations and to document ten (10) milestones for each graduate program. The deadline for this is 12/19. The event could be formal, but this will be a fun event that you will want to attend.

#### **V. New Business**

##### **A. New Courses and Programs**

Arthur Kinney, chair of the Academic Services and Curriculum Committee (ASCC), placed several items before the Council for its approval:

1. Public Health 750, Public Health 753, and Public Health 757 were approved by the ASCC and approval was recommended. All were approved by the Graduate Council unanimously.
2. Education 671, a course which spans four semesters, was tentatively approved by the ASCC awaiting revisions. It was recommended that the Graduate Council approve this course contingent on receipt of the revisions. The Graduate Council did approve this course contingent on receiving the changes
3. It was noted that the proposed Green Building Concentration requires four courses outside the department, including 400 level courses. There was a question concerning whether these courses were taught by qualified graduate faculty. Therefore, this program proposal is not ready for approval.
4. GEOSCI 501 – Planet Earth is ready for approval now that standard clauses have been added. The course was recommended for approval by the ASCC and was approved unanimously.

#### **VI. Committee Reports**

A. ASCC – see New Business, Item A above.

B. ALANA – Michael Alderman and Maurianne Adams provided the report and discussion. He distributed a report summarizing the award made under the Graduate Opportunity Recruiting Program. Fifteen (15) proposals were received and 11 were approved and funded. All programs funded were matched by the department.

C. Fellowship –No report was made.

D. Ethics – No report was made.

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 – Kevin Klement provided the report. He noted that the committee has a student helper now to assist with the online processing. The awards are being reviewed and approved one at a time. Anne C. Moore has been tracking awards against the budget to ensure we stay within the program rules.

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.

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

1. Bill McClure mentioned that they are currently reviewing the English as a Second Language (ESL) courses to determine if they can be served by Continuing and Professional Education. He also mentioned that the Continuing and Professional Education Catalogue is being reduced in size. The registration for the Fall term was 22% higher than last year for graduate and undergraduate course combined.

He then discussed that the academic calendar proposed change is scheduled to take effect in the 2009-2010 academic year. The winter term would take place between 12/20 and 1/18. There would only be a two week window (after January 1) for face-to-face courses. He said the winter term served many need on campus so we need to work with the schools to understand how to best accommodate this schedule change.

**VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
David E. Dudek