University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Graduate Council of the Faculty Senate
Linda Griffin, Chair
2013-2014

Minutes of General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, March 12, 2014
904-08 Campus Center

Nineteen (19) individuals signed into the meeting. Lori Baronas, Susan Chinman, Bette Elsden, Will Kazmier, and John McCarthy from the Graduate School attended. Graduate Council members present were Tom Braden, Tony Butterfield, Leslie Button, Linda Griffin, Mark Hamin, Arthur Kinney, Cynthia Jacelon, A. Yemisi Jimoh, Beth Lang, John Lopes, Bill McClure, Juan Manuel Ruiz-Hau, Howard Stidham and Nate Therien.

I. Welcome and Introductions
Chair Linda Griffin called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM.

II. Approval of Minutes
A motion was made by Arthur Kinney to accept the minutes of the February 12, 2014 meeting and was seconded by Tony Butterfield. The minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Comments by the Graduate Dean
• Dean John McCarthy spoke about the task force and budget model regarding the graduate school vs graduate education. Resource allocation is addressed in the budgets. The graduate school is a hybrid unit just like IPO and the writing program. These areas don’t teach courses but do receive revenue from enrollments. Concerning the Graduate Education budget model the biggest question has to do with waivers and who will pay for the waivers. Students who are not employed in a department but in administrative areas such as facilities planning, or housing might be effected because administrative offices might be better off hiring a full-time employee instead of graduate students. Employment related to a student’s department is justified in the model. Everyone would contribute to a pool of money and fellowship waivers would be treated as the common good for the students. There might be a disincentive for College A to hire a student from College B if the employing college has to pay to hire a student from another college. Health insurance was discussed and is self-funding so this isn’t an issue. Deans are being briefed on the proposed budget changes. There was some discussion and questions from Ernie May and graduate council members who sit on the budget task force. At this time the budget task force committee is still in the discussion stage.
• Will Kazmier announced the commencement program will look very differently this year and include notable alumni and their bios. There will be a more extensive student listing and will include Audiology Capstones this year. Will is also working on replacing the graduate school website completely and looking at fall 2014 as a launch date. The graduate school plans to highlight things the graduate school can do for its students that no one else can, include a calendar of events and position student for success. He is looking for images to include in the website and would welcome any images people would like to send to him.
• Dean McCarthy and V.C. Mike Malone have discussed some common needs that post docs and graduate students have in regards to training. They each agreed to equally fund training workshops for these people.
• There are a number of workshops coming up from the Office of Professional Development. Announcements are being distributed to the GPDs and Administrative Assistants in the departments. There will be an academic job panel in April for the SBS and HFA students and a dissertation writing retreat, limited to 15 students, coming in the summer.

IV. Old Business
None
V. New Business

A. Report of the ASCC

The ASCC presented 4 course proposals before the Graduate Council.

1. BIOL 551 – Animal Communication
2. EDUC 793D – Globalization and Education Policy
3. GEOSCI 636 - Advanced Remote Sensing
4. GEOSCI 678 – Spatial Data Analysis

Tony Butterfield made a motion to accept the course proposals and Arthur Kinney seconded the motion and the course proposals were unanimously approved.

The ASCC presented 4 program proposals before the Graduate Council.

1. Program Revision in the Certificate in Cultural Landscape Management
2. Program Revision in the Certificate in Global Health
3. Masters in Italian Studies
4. Breaking the Department of Public Health into three Departments: The Department of Biostatics and Epidemiology, The Department of Health Promotion and Policy and the Department of Environmental Health Sciences

Arthur Kinney made a motion to accept the program proposals and John Lopes seconded the motion and the program proposals were unanimously approved.

B. Establishment of Distinguished Graduate Mentor awards committee

Dean McCarthy asked for volunteers for this committee. Cynthia Jacelon, John Lopes, Leslie Button and Juan Manuel Ruiz-Hau volunteered to serve.

C. Re-establishment of a committee to review draft of Graduate School Hearing panel policy

Linda Griffin, Mark Hamin, A. Yemisi Jimoh and John Lopes volunteered for this committee. Juan Manuel Ruiz-Hau will ask someone in GSS to volunteer for this committee.

D. Re-establishment of a committee to discuss duties of advisors and GPDs

The same people on the hearing panel will also serve on this committee.

VI. Committee reports as necessary

None

VII. Comments from Administrative Officers and others as appropriate

None

VIII. Announcements

Dean McCarthy announced the domestic graduate applications are down by 1% but the ALANA applications are up 6.2%. The white applications are down by 1.4%. A list of the McNair Scholars was sent out to departments from the graduate school and may have contributed to the increase in ALANA applications.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Baronas
Administrative Assistant to the Graduate Council