Minutes of General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, October 10, 2012
917 Campus Center

Twenty-five (25) individuals signed into the meeting. Michael Alderman, Susan Chinman, Diane Gerrish (substitute), John McCarthy and Patrick Sullivan from the Graduate School attended. Graduate Council members present were Jane Baran, Meghan Bergin, Tony Butterfield, Derek Doughty, David Ford, Larry Goldbaum, Linda Griffin, Cynthia Jacelon, A. Yemisi Jimoh, Arthur Kinney, Beth Lang, John Lopes, Ernie May, Bill McClure, Jocelyn Silverlight, Howard Stidham, Hongmei Sun, Anna Strowe, Nate Therien and David Vaillancourt. Steve Goodwin attended as the Provost’s designee to the Graduate Council.

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

II. Approval of Minutes
The minutes of September 12, 2012 were unanimously approved.

III. Comments by the Graduate Dean
1. Dean John McCarthy requested that everyone introduce themselves and describe their affiliation with the University, which was done.
2. The dean reported that the annual GPD Meeting was held on September 20, 2012. It was well attended and substantive information was distributed and well received.
3. He also attended the ISSR Board meeting on October 1, 2012. He said the Graduate school was funding graduate assistants to provide consulting on quantitative and qualitative methods to graduate students and others. He asked for input on the experiences of anyone using the service.
4. He described his recent attendance at a conference on Accelerated Masters Programs held at Smith College with other members of the Five-College community. He gave a brief explanation of the program with a handout of the programs now offered at UMass. He asked the Council to let him know if there were any additions needed or if there were possibly other departments they may be interested in having such a program.
5. He announced that he is a member of the Graduate Housing Task Force which recently met. Their topic of discussion was mainly about North Village which is basically for family housing. He indicated they were concerned about the need for repairs to the complex and that there was a 10% vacancy issue that they didn’t understand why it was allowed to continue. The group also reviewed a housing cost comparison with peer institutions and the private sector, as well as the long term problem of providing adequate graduate housing.
6. He is also a member of the Career Services External Review Team. He said he will be looking forward to getting feedback from graduate students on whether their needs are being met and if they are satisfied with the service they have received from the Office of Career Services.
7. His final remark was that the Doctoral Program Review reports from the deans were due and to date he had received three of them.
IV. Old Business
A. Committees
Chair Griffin reported that there is still a need for members of the Academic Standards, Fellowships, ALANA, and Student Affairs committees. She said that she will be sending one last email to get more volunteers and asked that GSS put out the call for more students to volunteer.

V. New Business
A1. Professional Development Workshop Topics
This discussion was postponed until the next meeting due to staff illness.

A2. GPD Appointment Process
Dean McCarthy asked if there was anything written as a University policy for the appointment of a graduate program director by departments. He had asked Patrick Sullivan to research the archived materials of the former graduate deans, graduate registrar, and Graduate Council Minutes to see if a process/policy had ever been established. Sullivan interjected that he had reviewed a quantity of materials and had not found any relevant information. Dean McCarthy said that he was concerned about the selection process due to some recent problems related to the GPDs in several departments. Ernie May suggested that the Faculty Senate could establish a policy if that was necessary. Further discussion ensued until it was determined that there was an established process that had been followed for years although there was nothing specifically written down. The final step of that process is that the academic dean gives written approval of the appointed nominee before the graduate dean is expected to give the final approval. Dean McCarthy was satisfied that there was an actual procedure being followed and the academic deans were involved in the process. It was determined that no further action was necessary at this time.

B. Report of the ASCC
There were four courses presented:
- CE 627-Rock Mechanics
- ECO 634-Analysis of Environmental Data Lab
- PSYCH 682-Theory and Practice of Psychotherapy with Adults
- PUBHL 507-Violence as a Public Health Issue
All four courses were unanimously approved.

C. Dissertation Prospectus
John Lopes began the discussion by saying he brought this to the attention of the Council because he had talked with the Dean of the Graduate School because he was concerned with the ambiguity of the Graduate School’s policy on the Waiver of the 7 Month Rule. He described how differently it is interpreted by different departments as applied to their students with the Graduate School seemingly allowing all waivers without consequence for not strictly adhering to the principles of the policy. Discussion ensued on what the purpose of the policy was and what could be done to ensure that all departments are applying the rule consistently across the board. Dean Steve Goodwin asked if the Graduate School could run an analysis to determine which departments were consistently asking for the waivers. Patrick Sullivan said that it was possible to get the data to be reviewed for further discussion for the best practice of this policy. Professor Lopes indicated that he was satisfied that the policy would be looked at further.

VI. Committee reports as necessary
None
VII. Comments from Administrative Officers and others as appropriate

Bill McClure, Director of Continuing Education and Professional Program gave a synopsis of the success of the summer programs along with a descriptive chart of the revenues and programs enrollment. He said that he would have a similar report for the fall at a future meeting. There was some discussion on the electronic delivery of the on line programs on a non-university sponsored program. Ernie May interjected that there was more information about the distribution issues of the online education program on the Faculty Senate website if anyone wanted/needed more information.

A. Yemisi Jimoh asked on behalf of the Academic Matters Council whether or not if a student is enrolled in a dual degree program with another university, such as the MRP/JD within the UMass Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning and Western New England College, would a student have to pay a Program Fee to the Graduate School while taking classes at the other university. There was some discussion ending with Patrick Sullivan indicating the answer would be “probably not”. While he could not ever recall such a situation, he would have to do further research if a definitive answer was needed at this time and to contact him if necessary.

VIII. Announcements
None

IX. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Gerrish
Administrative Assistant to the Graduate Dean