Twenty (20) individuals attended the meeting. Michael Alderman and Patrick Sullivan of the Graduate School and Joyce Hatch, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration, were invited guests. Members also attending were Jane Baran, Ann Cary, James L. Craig, David Dudek, Nigar Khan, Arthur Kinney, Kevin Klement, David Kotz, Bill McClure, John Mullin, Jeff Napolitano, Natalie Neubert, Arslan Razmi, Linda Shea, Pat Stowell, H. Martin Wobst, and Judy Wong.

I. Welcome and Introductions
Chair Linda Shea called the meeting to order at 12:02 PM and especially welcomed the guests.

II. Approval of Minutes
The minutes of the April 2, 2007 meeting were approved unanimously without revisions.

III. Comments by the Graduate Dean
Dean Mullin briefly reviewed two items

a. Graduate School 100th Anniversary Celebration
The Dean thanked people for participating in the “party of the century.” He especially thanked Linda Shea, Nigar Khan, and Pat Stowell for their efforts in organizing and coordinating the events. The Dean said he has received nothing but compliments.

b. Graduate School Fellowships
There is great news. The Fellowship program has been funded with an additional $250,000 from the University.

IV. Old Business

A. Graduate Student Housing
Dean Mullin began the discussion by providing some background on the situation (see the April 2, 2008 Graduate Council minutes for this background). He said we wanted to explore some alternatives to address the current situation. The Dean asked Joyce Hatch if she could speak broadly to the issue of Graduate Student Housing and to provide some direction on how to get Graduate Student Housing on the University’s Capital Project list. He indicated that he thought it was now time we should get this done right and asked for advice concerning the manner to move forward.


IV. Old Business (continued)

A. Graduate Student Housing (continued)
Joyce Hatch noted that 7-8 years ago there was a proposal by the campus planning group working with the Town of Amherst to developing some land that included a combination of Graduate Student Housing and Low Income Housing. She said this proposal was met by several issues and political considerations that stymied its progress.

Joyce said that there have been meetings with developers. Ideally, she said, private developers would build new graduate housing. However, the resulting rents would be twice what graduate students have been willing to pay. As a result, no developer is interested in Graduate Student Housing unless UMASS subsidizes it. Therefore, the only way new housing will be built is if the University does it. She also said that currently some fees from undergraduate housing subsidize graduate housing.

The Dean asked about the possibility of converting some existing University facilities to Graduate Housing. Joyce replied that housing must support itself through the revenues it received, except that the campus is helping to pay some of the debt for the new undergraduate housing that was recently completed. She said that the only way out of this issue is to grow to bring in more revenue that can be used to build more facilities.

Joyce reviewed the current funding priorities of the University. She said that the highest priority is Amherst 250 and finding a space and a lab for new faculty hired under that plan. Installing and updating building sprinkler systems and other safety systems are also at the highest priority. She said that we really needed to make a compelling case to include Graduate Student Housing on this list of priorities.

The Dean said that based on this information, we needed to revisit the alternative of swapping Prince for another facility and then renovate. Judy Wong said that there is a new executive team for the Graduate Student Senate that has just been elected and they have identified graduate student family housing as an issue they will revisit and discuss.

The Dean asked Joyce how we could continue this dialogue. Joyce said that the facility swap idea seemed terrific and to pursue that alternative. Arthur Kinney inquired about if there have been any discussion with the management of Pufton Village. Joyce said they already fulfill some needs. She also indicated there were issues about the need to use our billing system to administer some arrangements which is difficult.

The Dean mentioned the possibility of co-ops in which the University would provide the land and students could build housing units. However, he recommended to Jeff Napolitano, the current President of the GSS, that we revisit the swap alternative one more time. It was recommended that the Architecture Department within the University be approached to develop some alternatives for the renovations.
IV. Old Business (continued)

A. Graduate Student Housing (continued)
The discussion concluded with the Dean saying he was concerned about the possible negative impact the issues with Graduate Student Housing could have on graduate student recruitment, mentioning the new Graduate Student Housing at UCONN. Joyce said she has toured the UCONN facility and was familiar with it. She did say that perhaps she could not rule out the possibility of constructing a new graduate student housing facility, but it would have to be a very compelling case. She said we have received $500 million from the state in capital project funding but have needs totaling over $1 Billion. There are at least 5 major projects ahead of any new Graduate Student Housing Project, such as the current construction of the new Science Building and improvements to Morrill as well as renovations to the Graduate Research Center and the Student Union.

B. Graduate Student Recruitment and Retention Program
Michael Alderman distributed a one page document from the work of the ALANA Committee which intended to amend the By-laws of the Graduate Council. This proposal concerned the Graduate Student Recruitment and Retention Program although it did not mention the program by name. Jeff Napolitano reviewed the document. A discussion followed in which it was noted that this was a major issue for many students because of the perception of how the old Diversity Fellowship program lost a major part of its funding. It was noted that the South Side (Humanities and Arts) saw it as money being taken away. It was also noted, though, that those funds went to NEAGEP, which benefited graduate students in underrepresented groups in the science, math, and engineering disciplines which have much more significant diversity issues than the South side. It was also noted that this was a policy proposal and should not be incorporated into the by-laws. As a result of the discussion, Item “c” under the “Budget” section was deleted and item “i” under the section “Constitution of the Committee” be changed to “Graduate Dean will report one time providing detail of the discretionary expenditures.”

Jeff Napolitano moved to adopt the proposal as a policy statement and not as a revision to the By-laws. The Dean seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

C. Graduate Faculty Status Review
Pat Stowell distributed a revised 3-page proposal and reviewed it. She noted there are two additional faculty categories for a total of five categories in the new proposal. A discussion followed in which Linda Shea said the Research Council was concerned about the manner in which special appointments would be accommodated by this new policy. A discussion of the review procedures of the Personnel Committees within the different parts of the University followed. It was noted that individual academic departments don’t always have a set of policies so this policy can serve as their primary policy.
IV. Old Business (continued)

C. Graduate Faculty Status Review (continued)
Ann Carey noted that many Doctoral students would need to use contract professors on their doctoral thesis committees. She questioned if the new policy would accommodate those situations. It was determined these situations would be covered under the “Long Term Member” faculty category.

The adoption of this policy was moved and seconded and approved unanimously.
It was also moved that we commend Pat Stowell for all her research and work on this topic. The motion passed unanimously.

V. New Business

A. Research Library Council Task Force
Arthur Kinney, Chair of the Research Library Council, said that he was looking for a Graduate Council member to serve on the Research Library Council Task Force. A one page document describing the work of the Task Force was sent to Council prior to the meeting. He said the Task Force wanted to understand the economic consequences and how changes in the publication and distribution of research using digital technology, such as the internet, affect faculty research work. Arthur mentioned that the Task Force would likely meet 2-3 times. Kevin Klement said he was interested and volunteered to serve on the Task Force.

B. Master Thesis Abstracts
Patrick Sullivan introduced this topic the Council. He said the Graduate Council had already agreed to require electronic thesis submission for Master Theses. However, an abstract needs to also be required in order to improve the ability to search and find this research in databases. He proposed that the Graduate Council approve the policy to require the submission of a research abstract with the submission of each Master Thesis. This proposal was moved and seconded and approved unanimously by the Graduate Council.

C. Open Access for Dissertations
Patrick Sullivan introduced this topic to the Council. He said the Library would like open access to the full text of theses in the form of a non-exclusive agreement with an option of open access with graduate students. Currently UMI offers about 25 pages free to anyone but the remaining pages require a payment of $95. However, it seems possible to get the remaining pages for free from Scholar Works.

Arthur Kinney asked what position UMI took on this topic. Patrick said UMI would lose business. Arthur said he also thought it was appropriate for students to have the option to hold onto their work and not provide open access.

No motion was made and no new policy was approved.
VI.  Committee Reports

A.  ASCC – Nigar Khan mentioned that the three Graduate Certificates pending were going to be used a “test cases” in the work of the Faculty Senate task force developing policies for certificates.

B.  ALANA – See above “Item B” under “Old Business” above.

C.  Fellowship – Kevin Klement provided the report.  It was noted that one current graduate student was nominated for a Fellowship Award by two program departments. He also mentioned that perhaps we should revisit the policy of students not being able to receive a second fellowship.

D.  Ethics – No report
E.  Special Admission – No report
F.  Student Affairs – No report
G.  Mentoring – No report
H.  Travel – No report
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
Ann Carey mentioned that she was leaving the University and taking a position at a new school. The Council thanked her for her work and extended their best wishes to her.

VIII.  Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
David E. Dudek