Sixteen (16) individuals attended the meeting. Michael Alderman, Lori Baronas, John Mullin and Patricia Stowell from the Graduate School attended. Also, in attendance were Graduate Council members Leslie Button, James Cathey, Larry Goldbaum, Li Gu, Arthur Kinney, Bill McClure, Wenbo Shao, Linda Shea, Howard Stidham, Anna Strowe, Nate Therien and guest Craig Nicolson.

I. Welcome and Introductions
Chair Linda Shea called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes
The minutes from October 13, 2010 were unanimously approved.

III. Comments by the Graduate Dean
Dean John Mullin reviewed and discussed a few items.

a. Graduate Dean from Ohio State University (OSU) Visit
The graduate dean from OSU has been invited to campus on December 8, 2010 to talk with the deans of the schools and colleges as well as some administrators on how they handled their NRC review a few years ago. He will discuss how some programs were cut and others put in abeyance. Dean Mullin noted that this week Iowa University closed six of their doctoral programs due to low attendance.

b. Framework for Excellence & UMass Rising
The goals and visions have been given to Linda Shea for review. The goals are general and the objectives are measurable. These will be emailed to the Grad Council members for their review and discussion at the December meeting.

c. The Graduate Dean and Student Affairs
Dean Mullin indicates he is not an expert in student affairs and proposes the next dean be strictly in charge of academics and would like input from the Graduate Council on this subject. He doesn’t think the Graduate Dean should be presiding over the Graduate Student Senate issues and they should come under the Student Affairs Office instead. Any future discussions on this issue should include the Student Affairs Office and GSS. The discussion should include quality of life issues and graduate housing.

IV. Old Business
A. Committee Needs
Linda Shea reviewed the committee needs and there is a student vacancy on the ASCC committee. The original student appointed will not be able to serve.

B. Graduate Bulletin Comprehensive Examination Explanation
Patricia Stowell and Linda Shea reviewed the comprehensive examination explanation in the Bulletin. John Mullin asked Patricia Stowell to re-write the Bulletin wording if necessary.

V. New Business

A. Program and Course Proposals
There were three program proposals and nine course proposals that were approved by the ASCC and subsequently approved unanimously by the Graduate Council.

The three (3) program proposals were:
1. Joint M.S./J.D. in Labor Studies and Law
2. Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies
3. Master of Science in Sustainability Science

The nine (9) course proposals were:
1. CEE 520 - Traffic Flow Theory & Simulation I
2. CEE 521 - Traffic Flow Theory & Simulation II
3. CEE 615 - Probabilistic Methods in Structural Mechanics
4. EDUC 723 - Organization in Higher Education
5. NSB 617 – Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Neurobiology
6. NSB 618 – Behavioral & Cognitive Neuroscience
7. PLSoil 585 – Inorganic Contaminants in Soil, Water & Sediments
8. Psych 617 – Cognitive Psychology
9. Psych 618 – Behavioral and Cognitive Neuroscience

B. Revised Theses and Dissertation Guidelines
Michael Alderman reported there were only minor changes in the guidelines to coincide with the electronic on-line submission process.

C. Faculty Tenure Revision Response
The Provost has asked the Graduate Council to respond by December 1, 2010 regarding the criteria for tenure by the UMass Medical School and the present requirements at UMass Amherst. UMass Medical requires “excellence” in two of three areas of teaching research and service, one of which must be research with a “strength” rating in the third area. The Provost has indicated “service” can’t be used to replace excellence in research. It was noted UMass Medical faculty members are expected to earn their own salary through grants, and if they get multiple grants, they may be awarded additional money. Large grants from NIH or NSF are not available to some disciplines such as Humanities and Fine Arts. The Provost feels UMass Amherst should have the highest standards if they are the Flagship Campus. Questions arose asking if this idea was to position ourselves for the AAU. We could be a candidate for the AAU in a few years. There were 20 Land Grant institutions in the AAU and that number has dropped to around 10. UMass Amherst is ranked 107 in the AAU.

Concerns that should be addressed in a response to the Provost should include:
1. Where will the Land Grant mission fit into the criteria?
2. Will this lead to conditions that make the faculty earn their own salary in grants?
3. Is research more valuable than teaching?
4. Will this be the demise of public service? For example, will the chair of Graduate Council get no credit or merit for his/her service?
5. UMass Amherst needs to review the tenure for its own reasons, not to be in competition with the other campuses.

Given all of the discussion on this issue, there are still a number of questions to be answered before the Graduate Council takes a stance on this. Linda Shea will draft a response to the Provost and circulate it to the Graduate Council members for comments.
VI. Committee Reports
No Reports.

VII. Adjournment
Bill McClure from Continuing and Professional Education distributed the latest enrollment data for the committee to review. None of the revenues go back to the Graduate School, but some of the revenues go back to the deans with CE programs. The largest revenues are from the on-line programs for the pMBA, Nursing and Public Health.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Baronas