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

II. Approval of Minutes
The minutes of November 9, 2011 were corrected and unanimously approved.

III. Comments by the Graduate Dean
1. John Mullin spoke about the graduate student health benefits and concerns. Departments are worried about the effects this might have on recruiting new students. Jean Kim, James Staros and John Mullin are forming a response to student concerns. It should be noted UMass Amherst pays 100% of benefits whereas our peers pay less.
2. Patrick Sullivan announced a program for viewing applicant dossiers in a PDF went into effect on 12/13/11. There will be video training sessions for departments soon.
3. The Bulletin is in the final stage and should be up on the web shortly after a few cosmetics changes.
4. Police Chief, Johnny Whitehead, met with a group of people on the recent Penn State and Syracuse events. It appears there is a lack of understanding on what to report, when to report it and to whom to report to. Everyone should be familiar with their responsibilities.
5. Susan Chinman has a GEO team in place consisting of Bernie Daly, John Mullin, James Watkins and Carol Barr. GEO negotiations begin at the beginning of the spring semester.
6. Nigar Khan indicated the International Studies Council (ISC) has formed a task force on international dual degree programs. Brazil and South America in general are two areas of interest to the ISC. A delegation from UMass consisting of Prof. Francis Mangan, Todd Diacon and Jack Ahearn will be going to Brazil soon. Others interested in this delegation should contact Jack Ahearn. The Governors’ Office has a delegation in Brazil now and the Brazilian President is expected to visit the campus in the spring semester. It was suggested to present the guests with “planets” made by Josh Simpson. It was noted there is an increase in the percentage of immigrants from Brazil in Massachusetts.

IV. Old Business
None

V. New Business
Report of the ASCC
One course proposal and two program proposals were approved the ASCC and subsequently approved unanimously by the Graduate Council.

The one (1) course proposal was:
1. Minor course change (Animal Science 472 to Animal Science 572)

The two (2) program proposals were:
1. M.S. in Microbiology – Applied Molecular Biotechnology
2. Master in Business Administration with a Focus in Health Care Administration

Student Response to Instruction (SRTI)
The SRTI report from Ernie Washington was briefly discussed. It appears there is a lack of uniformity on how teaching is evaluated. SRTI may not present a complete picture of teaching skills if this is the only data available to the Personnel Committees. A larger committee is being formed to evaluate SRTI and will present a report to the Faculty Senate at the end of the spring 2012 semester. It was mentioned that CPE/Bill McClure should be included in this committee.

Ph.D. Program Review
John McCarthy reported briefly on the Ph.D. Program Review. Data has been sent to Academic Analytics to reflect new faculty. The information will be formatted in narrative form and sent to the departments at the beginning of the spring semester. A preliminary review indicates the programs at UMass tend to be small and over perform compared to our peers.

Linda Griffin noted the Interim Graduate School Honesty Policy differs from the University Honesty Policy and the Graduate School Policy will be corrected immediately.

VI. Committee reports as necessary
None

VII. Comments from Administrative Officers and Others as appropriate
Bill McClure reported the face to face enrollments and online credit hours dropped slightly across the board for fall 2011 semester. Historic Preservation is the program which has grown the most offering 7 courses this year compared to 3 last year. Engineering offers no online classes, but our peers do. New programs developed through CPE need a champion or faculty member to start a new program.

Bill McClure also summarized the 3 summer sessions. The new third session was a failure. There was no break between graduation and the first summer session or another break around the July 4th holiday. The number of students was distributed between the three sessions instead of generating more students. The calendar committee met and will go back to the 2 summer sessions in 2013.

VIII. Announcements
None

IX. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.