



Date: Wednesday, September 21, 2016

Location: J. Ryan Building, Conference Room 204

Subject: Graduate Faculty Council (GFC) Meeting Minutes Summary

Attendees: Mary Anne Amalaradjou, David Atkin, Richard Bass (Moderator), Ronald Beghetto, Victoria Blodgett (Ex-Officio), Andrew Bush, Audrey Chapman, Zhiyi Chi, Antonia Cordero, Joseph Crivello, Steven Crocker, Steven Demurjian, Craig Denegar, Valerie Duffy, Niloy Dutta, Maria-Luz Fernandez, Miguel Gomes, Mitchell Green, Mark Hamilton, Kent Holsinger (Ex Officio), Bryan Huey, Matthew Hughey, Stefan Kaufmann, Lawrence Klobutcher, Barbara Kream (Ex-Officio), Louise Lewis, Etan Markus, Dorothy Betsy McCoach, George McManus, Lisa Park-Boush, Barbara Parziale (Ex Officio – Secretary), Lynn Puddington, Subhash Ray, Guillermo Risatti, Cristian Schulthess, Farhed Shah, William Simonsen, David Solomon, Tammie Spaulding, Judith Thorpe, Timothy Vadas, Andrew Wiemer, Peter Zarrow, Chuanrong Zhang and Cyrus Zirakzadeh.

Absent: Kari Adamsons (sabbatical), Daniel Adler, Hector Aguila, Ivy Alexander, Janet Barnes-Farrell (sabbatical), David Benson, Edna Brown, Eric Brunner, Casey Cobb (sabbatical), Pamela Diggle, Mary Anne Doyle, Jane Gordon, Ashley Helton, Donyeil Hoy, Charles Mahoney, Lirio K. Negroni, Gary Powell, Heather Read, Victoria Robinson, Gregory Semenza, Zeki Simsek, Michael Smith, Christina Sneed, Ranjan Srivastava, David Stern, Jiong Tang, Anastasios Tzingounis, and Qing Zhu.

1. Agenda item number one (1) – Call to order. Moderator Bass called to order the regular meeting of the GFC for September 21, 2016 at 3:02 pm.
2. Agenda item number two (2) – Introductions of 2016-2017 GFC membership were made.
3. Agenda item number three (3) – Approval of Minutes. Moderator Bass introduced the minutes of the April 13, 2016 meeting of the GFC. There was a motion offered, which was seconded and the motion was adopted in favor by all members present. **Agenda item number three (3) was passed unanimously without dissent on a voice vote.**
4. Agenda item number four (4) – Report from Kent Holsinger, Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of the Graduate School.
 - a. Enrollment statistics – Enrollment statistics for The Graduate School were presented:
 - i. There are over 7000 graduate students enrolled. The breakdown is as follows:
 1. 2519 Doctoral students
 2. 3995 Master’s students
 - a. Master’s in Business showed the highest increase – up 300 students
 3. 515 Certificate students
 - ii. Of the 7000 graduate students:
 1. 30% are foreign nationals
 2. 26% of domestic students are non-white
 3. 8% of domestic non-white students are Asian
 - iii. Orientation went very well this year
 1. Almost 500 graduate students were in attendance
 2. There were 329 students who reported for the Teaching Assistant orientation

3. ISSS reports 250 international students reported for their orientation
 - iv. University Events and Conference Services and Anne Hill were brought in this year to help with the organization and set up of the event. It was very well run. This is good news for the planning process for future years.
 - b. Compensation of postdoctoral scholars - There has been a significant change in the Fair Labor Standards Act regarding compensation for postdoc Scholars.
 - i. Previously postdoc Research Associates were exempt from time reporting
 - ii. It has been determined that the actual dollar figure of \$47,476 is the minimum training rate.
 - iii. The University must enforce the policy by December 1. From then until the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 2017 the University will find a way to make up the difference in pay. However, after June 30, 2017 the PI must meet the new minimum.
 - iv. The University must meet the NIH minimum. OSP will check for conformance as will Human Resources.
 - c. Late payments to graduate assistants - Graduate assistants who did not receive their pay on time on the September 2 pay date held a "party" outside Gully Hall in protest.
 - i. Approximately 200-300 students did not receive their checks on time. This is actually better than in previous years.
 - ii. The biggest problem is that the appointment letters do not get to payroll in time. Sometimes it is unavoidable. A signed offer letter and payroll authorization is required before paychecks can be issued.
 - d. Health insurance for fellows - Graduate Health insurance coverage is a challenge since there is no way of knowing which students have prestigious fellowships and which students have training grants.
 - i. Once it is determined which insurance the student falls under, they need to waive the student insurance offered in the PeopleSoft system through Human Resources.
 - e. Use of GRE scores in admissions/awards decisions - ETS has warned that a cut off testing score should never be used as a reason to deny admission/awards.
 - i. Testing is not precise.
 - ii. There is range of +/- 2-3 units on verbal and reasoning scores.
 - iii. Testing the same person on different days will result in different scores.
 - f. The NEASC reaccreditation team will be here the week of September 26, 2016. A public forum for faculty is planned in Rowe 122 next week.
 - i. During the preparation for the visit, it was discovered that The Graduate School standard for number of required courses for the Master's degree may be inconsistent with NEASC requirements. Currently the minimum number of credits is set at 24. The minimum NEASC requires is 30 credits.
 - ii. Therefore, going forward any students who begin a Master's program in the fall of 2017 or after will be required to have a minimum of 30 credits. Students who were enrolled prior to that date will not be required to add the additional credits.
 - g. The Graduate School is currently interviewing vendors for the electronic application process.
 - i. Two vendors can deliver the functions required and will be interviewed.
 - ii. The current contract with Hobson's ends June 30, 2017.
 - iii. Mike Mundrane and UITS are deeply involved with the process.
5. Agenda item number five (5) – Interim report from the task force on Graduate faculty status presented by JC Beall. Graduate faculty status means the faculty member can be a major or primary advisor to PhD's. Their current target is non-tenure track faculty. They are looking at three areas of tenure:
- a. Is it automatic?
 - i. The committee says no, but make it easy; decision should be up to the department.
 - b. Term of appointment?
 - i. How long? The committee feels 7 years is appropriate.
 - c. Factors for re-appointment?
 - i. The faculty member must be an advisor for someone.
 - ii. Advising should have a scholarly component
 - iii. Advising would have to be department specific
 - d. Some suggestions were offered for the committee to study.
 - i. Decisions regarding tenure should be made by the faculty as a whole.
 - ii. Appointment should be made by recommendation of the Dean.
 - iii. Is there an appeals process?

iv. A faculty member should be able to be an associate advisor without necessarily being on the Graduate Faculty Council.

6. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 4:12 pm with 44 individuals present; 8 via video.
7. The next regular meeting of the GFC is scheduled for October 19, 2016 in Room 204 of the J. Ryan Building.