

Meeting of the Graduate Council

November 1, 2004

Minutes

Present

Councilors: Arts and Sciences—Kristine Anthis, Jon Bloch, Vincent Breslin, Steve Burian, Ken Florey, Alan Friedlander, Ross Gingrich, Gerry Lesley, Patricia Olney, Lorrie Verplaetse, Charles Wieder; **Business**—Omid Nodoushani; **CLIS**—Yan Liu, Jane McGinn, Gwendolyn Nowlan, Hrvoje Podnar; **Education**—Beena Achhpal, Robert Axtell, Nancy Boyles, William Diffley, Joy Fopiano, Bernard Hayford, Norris Haynes, George Olshin, Christine Villani; **HHS**—Mary Bellandese, Jean Breny Bontempi, Elayne Haymes, Susan Killion, Edward Lynch, Joe Panza, Mary Purdy, Barbara Worden

Guests/Observers: Dean Sandra Holley, Interim Vice President Ellen Beatty, Associate Dean Roseann Diana, Assistant Dean Lisa Galvin, Patricia Major, June Cheng, Bharat Bhalla, Interim Dean, School of Business, Lystra Richardson, Peter Madonia

Guests/Observers

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Susan Killion called the meeting to order at 1:07 pm.

2. Disposition of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of October 4, 2004 was made, seconded, and approved by the Council.

3. Announcements

a. Office of the Academic Vice-President

Ellen Beatty

Interim Vice President Ellen Beatty made the following announcements:

- (a) She introduced Dr. Bharat Bhalla, who is serving as the Interim Dean of the School of Business. He is currently on leave from Fairfield University, where he is the Associate Dean of the Business School.
- (b) A color printer, requested by Dean Holley for the Graduate Office, has been approved from Bond Fund Money.
- (c) She introduced three members of the Doctoral Program in Education: Dr. Lystra Richardson, Dr. William Diffley, and Dr. Peter Madonia.
- (d) She indicated that the Office of Assessment and Planning, headed by Dr. Marianne Kennedy, while primarily concerned with undergraduate education, also has a graduate component related to peer governance.
- (e) The Academic Strategic Plan has been approved by President Cheryl Norton. Dean Holley was a member on the Committee that formulated that plan. There is a section in the plan on research and graduate studies.

b. Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies

Sandra Holley

The Dean of Graduate Studies addressed the Council concerning the following issues:

- (a) She gave thanks to Interim Vice President Beatty for the color printer.
- (b) She announced that the Graduate School Open House will be held on Thursday, November 18 in Lyman Center from 3-7 p.m. She requested that all academic program representatives be at their stations at 2:45 p.m. and that coverage be maintained until 7:00 p.m. She thanked Associate Dean Roseann Diana for her help in putting the open house together. At present, 200 students had signed up for the event and 400 are expected.
- (c) The newly elected officers of the Graduate Student Affairs Committee are Michael Galbicsek (MBA), chair, and Shonda Goward (ENG), vice-chair. GSAC meets on the first Monday of each month, and the Dean asked Councilors to encourage their students to attend.
- (d) Two meetings were hosted this semester with the Graduate School Dean and graduate program chairpersons and coordinators. The purpose of the two meetings was to provide a forum to share information about the mission, goals, and objectives of the Graduate School and to provide a forum for chairpersons and coordinators to exchange ideas and concerns. Approximately 50 persons attended each meeting.

Topics at the two meetings included presentations on:

- (1) The two Graduate School funding programs for graduate students, the Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF) and the Graduate School Graduate Assistantship (GSGA).
- (2) Exemplary departmental initiatives including: CMD Electronic programming of planned programs of study and scheduling of courses, PCH Special Project implementation, and ENG Graduate Assistant Training Program.
- (3) Presentation and discussion of Academic Integrity.

The feedback from the participants was positive, and the Dean intends to host two additional meetings in the Spring semester next year.

- (e) In conjunction with the next Graduate School GSGA competition, a workshop will be held in February for faculty and students to provide overview of the initiative and to answer questions.
- (f) Councilors are urged to report back to their constituents regarding the Graduate Council Meetings.

4. Reports

a. Academic Standards

Gerald Lesley

Gerald Lesley, Chair of the Academic Standards Committee (ASC), announced that the Department of English would be coming up for its five-year review at the next meeting of the Committee and that Biology would be submitting three separate reports after having received conditional approval from the Council last year. He indicated that Charles Wieder from Art Education would be presenting a report on that program later in the meeting.

b. Procedures**Alan Friedlander**

Alan Friedlander, Chair of the Procedures Committee, announced that the Committee had approved 3 nominations to the Graduate Faculty: Dr. Polly Beals from History, Dr. Janet Phillips from Accounting, and Dr. Richard Kustin from Marketing. All three nominations were unanimously approved by the Council.

c. Curriculum**Mary Purdy**

Mary Purdy, Chair of the Curriculum Committee, announced that SOC 572, Qualitative Methods in Sociology, after having been resubmitted by the department, was now approved as presented. Two other courses, ENG 529, African-American Rhetorical Theory, and ENG 531, Feminist Rhetorical Theory, were approved with minor revisions. PSC 594, Political Science: the State of the Discipline, was also approved with minor revisions. ENG 519, Teaching College Writing, and ENG 597, Graduate Internship in Teaching Writing, were tabled by the Committee for further discussion.

SOC 572, ENG 529, ENG 531, and PSC 594 were approved unanimously by the Council.

5. Old Business

There was no old business.

6. New Business

Dr. Lesley announced that Dr. Charles Wieder from Art Education would give the report of that program to the Council. He indicated that Dr. Wieder was given the task of preparing that report only a week prior to the beginning of the Fall Semester due to the illness of the present Coordinator. He also noted that the report from Art Education was posted on the WebCT website, the first program in the University to be so placed. In the future, the Graduate Council will no longer receive hard copy of program reports, for all such reports will now be posted on the Web.

Dr. Wieder began his presentation noting that there were only 3 full-time faculty (only one of whom is currently active) in the Art Education program, although other Art Faculty did teach applicable courses. He pointed out that in reacting to the report in committee, the ASC had two main areas of concern: (1) the breaking out and separating in the report the data and discussion of the two Art Education study programs—The Master's Degree and Art Teacher Certification; and (2) the questioning of the graduate Art Teacher Certification Program as a graduate program, due primarily to the fact that most of the course requirements are not taken at the graduate level. He indicated the steps that were being taken to resolve the first area and suggested as far as the second area was concerned that the question of the status of post-baccalaureate teacher certification programs be taken up by the Graduate Council and not be a factor in the evaluation of the current Art Education Program under review.

Dr. Wieder's comments regarding this latter area of concern led to a general discussion from the Council of whether or not post-baccalaureate teacher certification programs that are separate and distinct from graduate degree programs are, in fact, graduate programs at all. In several "graduate" certification programs, no graduate courses were required at all.

It was noted that such certification candidates were included in a department's "count" of graduate students. Chairperson Killion indicated that this question would be taken up by one of the Council's standing committees.

Dr. Lesley then noted that there were other issues that the ASC was concerned about with regards to the Art Education report that had been submitted to his committee including the need to clarify exit requirements along with a number of other minor problems. Nevertheless, he indicated that the ASC had voted to recommend Conditional Approval for the program. The Council voted unanimously to accept the committee's recommendation.

Lisa Galvin from the Office of Graduate Studies then gave a presentation about WebCT, and indicated that she had set up a site within that program for Graduate Council documents and reports. She showed the Council how to get into that site, and she pointed out how to access the Art Education report, which she had transformed into a .pdf file.

Her report then led into a general discussion of whether or not applications and/or vitae from prospective graduate faculty members should be posted on the site and made accessible to all Council members. There was concern about dissemination of materials about faculty who were rejected for membership by the Procedures Committee, rights to privacy, and possible legal action. Some members felt, however, that if they were required to vote on a prospective member's application then they needed to see that application. Chairperson Killion again suggested that this was a matter to be taken up in committee.

7. Adjournment

Chairperson Killion adjourned the meeting at 2:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Florey, Secretary