

Meeting of the Graduate Council

March 1, 2004

Minutes

Present

Councilors: Jon Bloch, Steve Burian, Gerry Lesley, Ken Florey, Vincent Breslin, Deane Hetric, Patricia Olney, Kristine Anthis, Kathleen Skoczen, Hrvoje Podnar, Yan Liu, Hak Joon Kim, Wendy Nowlan, Joy Fopiano, Norris Haynes, Ben Hayford for Beena Achhpal, Katherine Corbett, Christine Villani, Bob Axtell for Jin Jin Yang, Nancy Boyles, George Olshin, Marianne Kennedy, Mary Purdy, Edward Lynch, Susan Killion, Jean Breny Bontempi, Joe Panza, Elayne Haymes, Barbara Worden

Guests/Observers: Lisa Galvin, Roseann Diana, June Cheng, Elaine Bennett, Nick Beatty, Sandra Holley

Call to Order

Chairperson Susan Killion called the meeting to order at 1:12 pm. A motion to approve the minutes of February 2, 2004 was made, seconded, and approved by the Council.

Announcements

Office of the Academic Vice President

Ellen Beatty

The Academic Vice President addressed the Council concerning the following issues

1. The Graduate Student Graduate Assistantship (GSGA) initiative has received approval for funding again this year.
2. International Studies Program – the Faculty Senate has passed a resolution to hire an international studies coordinator. A consultant hired by AVP Beatty completed an assessment of the services provided to international students and reported that we have the momentum to hire a coordinator and that our efforts to support international studies warrants such a hire.
3. The Academic Vice President solicited feedback from Councilors regarding the Sponsored Programs and Research office (SPAR). Discussion included concern about SPAR being housed within Institutional Advancement (instead of Academic Affairs), uncertainty about SPAR's ability to understand certain funding agency guidelines, that procedures need to be much more clear for faculty, and several comments about details not being completed from the SPAR office.
4. Three new positions have been created in the payroll and bursars offices.

Office of the Dean of Graduates Studies

Sandra Holley

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

1. Dean Holley introduced the chair, Elaine Bennett and vice chair, Nick Beatty of the Graduate Student Affairs Committee (GSAC) who informed Councilors of the funding opportunities for graduate students. Funds to conduct research, attend conferences and to support student organizations are available through application to GSAC. Further, funds to support guest speakers, social events, and other projects are available to departments. Please communicate these opportunities to students and faculty in your departments.
2. Final registration statistics, regarding graduate registration, are as follows:
 - a. Full-time enrollment increased 18.7% over last spring with a total of 957 students.
 - b. Part-time enrollment decreased 3.2% over last spring with 2,868 students.
3. The Graduate School Open House will be held on Thursday, April 15 from 3:00 – 7:00 pm in the Lyman Center. Invitations will be sent out to over 28,000 potential graduate students. Faculty are asked to be at their department stations at 2:55 pm.
4. Several initiatives are underway by Dr. Chai, Chief Information Technology Officer. These include high tech classroom support, the installation of cyber stations in buildings and student lounge in Davis, and a commuter computer student loan program to students.
5. Dean Holley reported on the graduate student focus groups that were complete in December. A total of sixty-seven graduate students, representing a variety of concentrations, participated in the focus groups. Strengths of graduate education include: The commitment of faculty, convenience of how classes are scheduled, affordability of an SCSU education, and convenience and necessity of Banner. Weaknesses stated by students include: poor communication and customer service within the administrative offices, inability to contact administrative office staff, inadequate staffing of these offices, not feeling accommodated as graduate students, dissatisfaction with physical environment at SCSU, and online communication systems. The Dean will present these results to the President’s Cabinet on March 16th.

Deleted: Committe

Deleted: is

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Committee Reports

Academic Standards

Gerald Lesley

The program report from Psychology was reviewed this month and presented (see below). The committee will review the report from Science Education and Environmental Science for the next Graduate Council meeting.

Deleted: P

Deleted: s

Deleted: ere

Procedures

Joy Fopiano

The following individuals were recommended by the Procedures Committee, and approved by the Graduate Council, to be members of the graduate faculty: Dr. Gladys Labas (EDL) and Dr. Nancy Marano (EDU).

The committee is working diligently on revisions to the Graduate Council Rules of Order and acknowledged Chairperson Killion's detailed and thorough review.

Curriculum

Mary Purdy

A recommendation by the Curriculum Committee to approve SHE 570, *Organizational and Administration of School Health Education* was approved by the Council.

Old Business

None

New Business

1. The program report from the Psychology Department was presented by Dr. [James Mazur](#). The Department offers a Master of Arts degree in psychology and is designed for students with a variety of backgrounds. Approximately 20-25 students are accepted annually with 14-22 graduating each year.

Following the presentation, the recommendation of the Academic Standards Committee (via their report) for *continuing approval* of the Psychology graduate programs was approved unanimously by the Council.

2. A comment from the floor regarding salaries for graduate assistants (GAs) was raised. Currently, GAs are paid \$300 a credit per semester, which is a very low hourly wage for the time spent in these positions. The executive committee was urged to look into this matter for a future meeting.

Adjournment

Chairperson Killion adjourned the meeting at 2:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean M. Breny Bontempi, Secretary