

Graduate Student Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Connable Board Room, The Bernhard Center
4.08.2005

Representatives Present: Todd Ide (chair), Sankar Shanmugam (Vice Chair), Jolene Berger (Biological Science), Sylvie Coulibaly (Biological Science), Paul Chen (Economics), Kelly Daniels (English), Marcel Brouwers (English), Ralucca Gera (Mathematics), Nuria Ibanez (Spanish), Kinfu Adisu (TLL), Mimi Rohlfing (Music), Ranjith Kanakasabha (Comp Sci), Brad Salisbury (Mech. & Aero. Eng), Lokendra Pal (Paper & Printing Sci.), Felica Rawls (Blind Rehab), Toni Strutz (Social Work), Tracy Kiel (Music Therapy), Doris Dirks (TLL)

Guests: Jan Miller (Social Work), Jason Olsen (English), Keith Russo (English),

1. Meeting call to order 3:05 pm
2. Introductions
3. Approval of minutes
 - a. Motion by Brad to approve, Seconded by Paul
4. Dr. Wiener – no report
5. Report from the Chair – Todd Ide
 - a. Meeting with President
 - i. Talked about the recommendations on the graduate college. Asked the universities commitment on the Carnegie's standards. President indicated was committed to maintaining status as long as definition of Research Extensive does not change. President also stated that stipend levels, program elimination/consolidation will be considered as well.
 - b. Dinner with the president – Thursday April 14th around 6 pm
6. GSAC Sub-Committees and University Councils
 - a. Web Committee – Sankar
 - b. Public Relations – Ralucca
 - i. Button shirts were ordered. Looking forward to get it before school ends
 - c. Graduate Research Symposium and Journal – Toni
 - i. The committee is in the process of reading the submissions. If anyone would like to provide the cover art for the journal are welcome to submit
 - d. Unionization – Keith Russo, Jason Olson
 - i. Planning on a meeting today at the Sprau Tower around 5'o clock. The group would like to develop a questionnaire and select steering committee.
 - e. University Councils
 - i. Research Policies Council – Kurt, Christina
 1. No report
 - ii. Technology and Operations Council – no report

- iii. Graduate Studies Council – Todd, Marcel
 - 1. The report on the Efficacy and Efficiency of the Grad College was presented to the Faculty Senate and passed. They are also working on in a subcommittee full-time status for Grad students.
- iv. Campus Planning and Finance Council – Sankar
 - 1. Deferred maintenance: Maintenance issues are the biggest concerns in educational settings at the national and state level. Current facilities and the condition of aging facilities are of great concern at WMU. Director of Maintenance Mr. Strazdas gave a power point presentation of the 145 buildings on campus. He also mentioned that the building maintenance cost is always higher than what the department receives for general maintenance.
 - 2. Report on the state of the classroom: the first draft of the CPFC's recommendations was distributed. A motion was made to present the report to Dr. Bailey in next meeting.
- v. International Education Council – Paul
 - 1. The Vice-Provost had attended the meeting regarding the student recruitment & retention
 - 2. The reorganization of the international student affairs is almost done
- vi. SIS governance and portal governance committees – Carla
 - 1. No report
- vii. GSC/RPC Ethics Committee – Kurt
 - 1. The committee has presented the report to the Graduate Studies Council
- viii. Graduate student full time status – Toni, Brad, Kelly, Todd
 - 1. Basic issues of the international graduate students were discussed. Also the graduate assistantship from 6 to 9 credit hours was brought up. Planning to meet Provost next Thursday. There has been no clue of why there is sudden decision for increase in credit hours. This committee will come up with a set of recommendation for the administration
- ix. GSC/RPC Efficacy and Efficiency of the graduate college – Marcel
 - 1. The report was presented to the Faculty Senate and it was passed. The full report will be on the web at the faculty senate's website
- f. GFAC – Sankar
 - i. Pi Mu Epsilon organization requested \$2840 towards the operational expenses and an event which brings a speaker to campus. GFAC recommended GSAC to give \$1220, which should

- be spent as \$200 towards operational expenses and \$1020 for the event; Jen moved, Toni seconded, motion passed
- ii. The Voices of WMU Gospel Choir requested \$2935 towards the annual spring concert. GFAC recommended GSAC to give \$1000 towards the compensation and \$500 towards the equipment/sound system. Keith moved, Marcel seconded, motion passed
- g. MLK Committee – Doris
 - i. While not directly related to MLK Corrigan Maguire, the Nobel Laureate, speaker for tonight around 7pm on topic “Building a new culture of non-violence for the Human Family”. The event includes peace jam, reading together, walking together etc., on tomorrow at MLK park around 2pm
7. Old and Continuing Business
- a. Committee vacancies – International Education Committee and STEM committee
 - b. Professional Development Day – Was good. Presentations were made by Community college, KVCC, WMU Grad college
 - c. Update on full time status - Already been discussed
 - d. Graduate group meetings – Talking with student groups since January 2005 and the recent meeting was with the Music students
 - e. Town Hall meetings; GRE programs
8. New Business
- a. Letter to the President and Board – was discussed including grammatical changes. Passed unanimously.
9. General Announcements & Briefs
- a. GFAC Meeting – May 13th, June 10th, 2005
 - b. GSAC Meeting – May 13th, June 10th 2005

Recessed to Roadhouse to discuss the state of graduate schools at 4:25pm