

Graduate Student Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Connable Board Room, The Bernhard Center
12.03.2004

Representatives Present: Todd Ide (chair), Sankar Shanmugam (vice chair), Lindsay Wolfe (Communication), Paul Chen (Economics), Jennifer Smith (English), Marcel Brouwers (English), Kelly Daniels (English), Peter Voice (Geosciences), Raluca Gera (Math), Fodei Batty (Political Science) Dawn Rothe (Sociology), Sharon Peterson (Educational Studies), Kara Kits (Mallinson Institute for Science Education), Mimi Rohlfing (Music), Shadi Bajjali (Civil & Construction Engineering.), Kurt Hayden (Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering.), Brad Salisbury (Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering), Lokendra Pal (Paper & Printing Science), Felica Rawls (Blind Rehabilitation), Toni Strutz (Social Work), Tracy Kiel (Music Therapy), Doris Dirks (Teaching, Learning and Leadership)

Guests: Dr. William Wiener (Dean, Grad College), Dr. Linda Delene (Provost), Vaneitta Goines (Political Science), Roy Henry (Political Science), Israil Ali (Public Affairs and Administration)

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m.

2. Introductions

3. Minutes approved

- Mimi moved, Tony Seconded. Motion passed.

4. Meeting with Provost Delene

- a) Grad programs are function of faculty within depts. Addresses the issue of growing grad programs.
- b) Hopes for more selective graduate education, more competitive \$-wise.
- c) Criteria of 'weak' program: still open, though programs *will* be phased out.
- d) PR: 1. Study to reposition university in more competitive field
2. Increase + media exposure: Academic Affairs Newsletter
3. Student Recruitment and Retention Issue
4. Task force on responsiveness to students (Dr. Diane Anderson)
- e) What makes 'Contributors' to university graduate program: (1) nationally ranked, (2) what do graduates 'do' with degree, (3) is there loyalty to program/ giving back to university, (4) actual social value of program.
- f) Grad College?: Leaving her opinion on hold.
 - Organizational structure does not dictate graduate dean's existence.
 - Possible option: Dean of Grad College for each College.
 - Student opinion is that Grad College's dissolution will break continuity of focused service.
- g) Quality of Student Services – Equity vs. Equality.
- h) Many problems are human errors in communication(s) = PR.
- i) 1. Cannot be internationally competitive without proper higher education
2. Parents must become political on education issues.
- j) Provost willing to come back to GSAC once or twice per semester.

5. Report from the Chair -Todd

- a) Bailey meeting: Bailey not inclined to keep Grad College harmless, but keeping options open.
- b) Committee & Council Assignments:
 - University Assessment Committee: Raluca Gera
- c) Board of Trustees: Dec 10 @ 10:00 AM

6. GSAC Sub-Committees and University Councils

- a) Web Committee – Sankar
Currently under upgrade.
- b) Public Relations – (Ralucca) – NAGPS Regional Conference, January 22
 - loan reconsolidation officer
 - Professional Development, February 5
 - Interview panel
 - GSAC Calendar?
 - **Proceedings**: Publish thesis before actual publication
 - NAGPS March 18, Bowling Green
 - NAGPS Lobby Day in April
- c) General Education subcommittee – Need a representative (No report)
- d) Legislative Affairs Committee – Mimi Rohlfing (No report)
- e) Graduate Research Symposium – Toni Strutz
 - Next meeting, next Thursday 3 – 4, Media Lab in Moore Hall
- f) University Councils
 - i) Research Policies Council (2) – Kurt & Christina
 - Faculty related issues, all of them
 - 36 of 50 Travel Grants awarded

Research Ethics Committee – Training for university community, grad students doing research for class, for thesis.

 - will come up with categories for determining ethical standards
 - AGEP – STEM courses for minority students
 - Dr. Wiener has a grant, wants GSAC member to get involved.
 - ii) Technology and Operations Council – Peter
 - OIT is negotiating site licenses for Microsoft
 - OIT gave new projectors to departments (mostly A&S)
 - iii) Graduate Studies Council – Todd/Marcel
 - New Repeat Course Policy
 - iv) Campus Planning and Finance Council – Sankar
 - v) International Education Council – Paul – no report
 - vi) Retention Committee – Todd wants to push beyond stipend issues to address retention and recruitment.
- g) GFAC – Sankar
 - i) PSGSA – recommends \$500 for operational, \$50 special event
 - Ralucca moved, Kurt seconded, passed.
 - ii) Mu Beta Counseling - \$1500 recommended for speaker in February
 - Sankar moves, Paul seconds, passed.
- h) MLK Committee – Doris
 - No report
- i) CAB representative – No report
- j) WSA representative – No report

7. Old and Continuing Business (Todd, chair)

- a) Stipend check – Provost and President agree that break would cause problem so there will be no break in pay periods.
- b)

8. New Business

- a) Nigerian scam letters

- WMU is on the ball

9. General Announcements

a) Next GSAC, GFAC meeting – January 14th 2005

Recessed to Roadhouse to discuss the state of Graduate Schools at 4:15 p.m.