

Graduate Student Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Connable Board Room, The Bernhard Center
1.14.2005

Representatives Present: Todd Ide (chair), Lindsay Wolfe (Comm), Paul Chen (Econ) Jennifer Smith (Eng.), Marcel Browers (English), Jamie McCandless (History), Raluca Gera (Math), Fodei Batty (Poli Sci), Andrea Juarez (Psychology), Dawn Rothe (Sociology), Mike Eden (Management), Chris Stuiwe (CECP), Andrew McNair (Art), Mimi Rohlfing (Music), Ranjith Kanaka (Comp Sci), Kurt Hayden (Indust & Man Engg), Lokendra Pal (Paper & Printing Sci.), Felica Rawls (Blind Rehab), Toni Strutz (Social Work), Tracy Kiel (Music Therapy),

Guests: Jan Miller (Social Work)

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m.

2. Introductions

3. Minutes approved

– moved by Marcel, Paul Seconded. Motion passed.

i. Report from Dr. Bill Wiener

- Will be made later if he or Dr. Vichales are able to get out of another meeting in time.

ii. Report from the Chair -Todd

- There are still a few committee positions available. Please check the sheet and sign up.

iii. GSAC Sub-Committees and University Councils

a) Web Committee – Sankar

- No Report

b) Public Relations – Raluca

▪ Michigan Assoc Grad and Prof Students see tentative schedule provided. Main attraction a presentation on loan consolidation.

▪ See Todd re shirts.

▪ NAGPS Lobby day has been set for 2/17 and 2/18. Goal is to lobby for the reintroduction of Stipend tax relief bill.

▪ Prof. Development day by Todd. Tent. Scheduled for 3/5. This will include breakout sessions on choosing a mentor, resume critique, developing a C.V., Faculty from Western to participate in mock interviews, hiring process, etc. Dr. Weiner and personnel from other universities to participate. Will be on a Saturday

▪ Note Bronco Jobs doing it in Feb. also, but not necessarily aimed at graduate students. Mock interview 1/27, career day 2/3.

c) General Education subcommittee – Need a representative (No report)

d) Legislative Affairs Committee – Mimi

▪ I met with V.P. Greg Rosine and V.P of Leg Affairs Melissa Bourke. I have been placed on the email alert list. Both expressed an interest in addressing GSAC – Feb (or maybe March) would be good for them since the State of the State address to be 2/2, budget to be announced mid. February.

▪ NAGPS reintroducing bill to return tax-exempt status on stipends. There have been some replacements (2) on the Ways and Means Committee. These are seen as positive and supportive of the bill.

e) Graduate Research Symposium – Toni

- Will meet later in January to resume work. The committee is planning to launch the symposium in March. The guidelines, name of the Journal have been established and will be distributed to Grad Advisors shortly.
- f) University Councils
- iv. Research Policies Council – Kurt
 - Select committee for research ethics. Initial report to be revised. Goal to come up w/ training method in ethics. U of Chicago shut down research because of ethics violation. Western wants to avoid having to do that, so we want documentable ethics training. This would include an approval form for student dissertations and the implementation of an approval system (not just sign up your committee and topic). Want it HSIRB or other appropriate Board approved.
 - v. Technology and Operations Council
 - No report
 - vi. Graduate Studies Council – Todd/Marcel
 - Marcel 12/15 discussed the Incomplete policy. Currently Incompletes last for 1 year w/ possibility of extension. Current problem: folks carrying 18 hours of incompletes. The Council is considering reducing the time period from 1 year to 6 months (c/ still be extended) OR setting a limit on the number of Incompletes a student can carry at one time. Council also approved the consolidation of the Const. Mgmt and Eng. into Civil Engg. Degree.
 - The Council also discussed good academic standing for grad students: Now requires min. of 3.0 total. If fall below first semester go on probation. Must get 3.0 next semester. If fail to again go on final probation. If not 3.0 by then (three semesters) you're dismissed from the program.
 - Marcel also is looking for a substitute or replacement on Grad Studies Council due to teaching conflict.
 - vii. Campus Planning and Finance Council – Sankar
 - No Report
 - viii. International Education Council – Paul
 - International Education met 12/9. Reorganization of OISS is in process. This is impacting students. Followed up in the Herald.
 - ix. SIS Governance and Portal Governance
 - No Report
 - x. Select Committees
 - Grad Retention Committee hasn't met.
 - Efficacy and Efficiency of the Graduate College – Marcel
 - Meeting 2 hours weekly interviewing Dean Wiener and Dr. Vichales, Dr. Marianne De Pierro, Tom Kent in Arts and Sci, will meet w/ Provost Delene. Will draft report starting next month which is due March. Kurt suggested they see what hap w/ Old Dominion – they got rid of their Grad College. Since our last meeting one Grad college. Grad College has lost another employee Paula Boodt has been moved from Thesis and Dissertation to Admissions.
 - Ethics Committee – See RPC report
- g) GFAC – Sankar
- i. Proposal from the Society of Microbiology to bring in scholar Guy Cornelius from Switzerland to do seminar (Open to other schools not just WMU). GFAC tabled due to questions on travel expense. Since not until 4/1 there is time to get more information

- h) MLK Committee – Doris
 - No report
- i) CAB representative
 - No report
- j) WSA representative
 - No report
- xi. Old and Continuing Business (Todd, chair)**
 - a) Provost Delene’s visit on December 3rd: Provost has accepted to come to the GSAC’s meeting. She will discuss about the graduate college, its future, its role
- xii. New Business**
 - a) Tsunami relief mentioned, since many Western students from affected areas. Student leadership team considering doing something with WSA and other groups, would include GSAC.
- xiii. General Announcements**
 - a. Martin Luther King Mon 2-5 at Radisson. There will music and games. Andrea will be making Friendship jewelry.
 - b. Question about Traveling Grants. Applications submitted but no responses yet.
 - c. Tuition increases will be announced soon. Looking to make sure grad. students not unfairly burdened. (Although the governor said she’d protect us, we’re expecting increases due to 1 billion dollar shortfall.)
 - b) Next GSAC, GFAC meeting – February 11, March 11 and April 8, 2005

Recessed to Roadhouse to discuss the state of Graduate Schools at 3:50 p.m.