

Graduate Student Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Connable Board Room, The Bernhard Center
07-16-04

Representatives Present: Todd Ide (chair), Doris Dirks (TLL), Kurt Hayden (IME), Kinfu Adisu (TLL), Jan Miller (Social Work), Brad Salisbury (Mech. & Aero. Eng)

Guests: Dr. Kevin Vichcales (Graduate College/GSAC Advisor), Dr. Ron Davis (Vice Provost)

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m.

1) Introductions

2) Minutes Approved

- i) Moved by Brad, seconded by Kinfu

3) Report from Kevin:

- a) Health insurance premiums: \$1,000 premium total; appointee \$596 paid by institution/\$404 by student split. Appointee premium up \$154 from last year.
- b) Block Tuition: Full tuition remission still in place for DAs (including 10th credit hour).
- c) Director of Diversity Recruitment Search Committee – A Committee has been formed to replace Gigi Daniels. There was discussion on Grad Student representation, Todd will forward names to Provost Delene about membership on the committee.
- d) Graduate Dean Search Committee – Todd will report on this.
- e) GA Training (August 23) and Orientation (August 27) planning continues.

4) Report from Dr. Ron Davis (Acting Dean of Graduate College)

- a) Will fill in as graduate dean until permanent dean is selected (hopefully by mid-August). But not really until January when the candidates may be free from their commitments.
- b) Graduate program review document will be issued campus-wide today or Monday. Includes long-range plans and funding issues.
- c) Strategic plan currently in process and will feature support for graduate programs and education.

5) Report from the Chair:

- a) Graduate and Non-Traditional Student Services Fair. Todd asks if we should continue to offer. Discussion ensues. It will take place Saturday, August 27 from 1-3; picnic from 3-7.
- b) Dean Search: Three candidates interviews will be July 25 and 26. Todd hopes that there will be public presentations by the candidates. Todd proposed search questions regarding diversity and graduate students.
- c) Director of Diversity Recruitment Search Committee: A graduate student representative nomination will come forward on behalf of GSAC. Andrea Juarez and Doris Dirks were two suggested nominations.
- d) Board of Trustees Meeting is July 28 at 9 a.m. Todd will be speaking at the meeting. No word on if tuition rates will be set in July or August.

6) GSAC Sub-Committees and University Councils:

- a) Web-Committee –
 - i) Kelly said (from Prague) that it's still there. Doris noted that her last year as GSAC Chair was given to Marcel. It should read: Dirks 1999-2002; Brouwers 2002-2004.
- b) Public Relations – Vacant.

- c) Graduate Research Symposium and Journal – Toni (via Todd)
 - i) fall publication date
- d) University Councils - Most are not meeting
 - i) Graduate Student Full-time Status – Toni, Brad, Kelly, Todd
 - (1) Document tabled by GSC. Forwarded to Provost with some recommendations. Will be considered at September GSC meeting. Discussed in Todd’s report.
- e) GFAC – Todd
 - i) Proposal from Graduate Christian Fellowship (GCF) for sponsorship of the Mars Hill Lecture series “Intelligent Design” (that is, creationism redux) debate on September 20. Amount requested: \$1,500.
 - ii) Kurt moves that \$1,400 be approved. Kinfu seconds. Motion passed.
 - iii) GSAC budget presented. Big roll-over of \$37, 605.68. Several graduate organizations did not use allocated funds.
- f) MLK Committee – Doris
 - i) Committee met. Conversation revolved around selection of speaker. An offer will be made in August.
 - ii) Larger event planned for next MLK celebration: kickoff event at Galilee Baptist Church on Sunday, January 8, WMU convocation take place on Sunday, January 15.

7) Old and Continuing Business

- a) Committee Vacancies – Future Faculty/STEM Areas, Public Relations
- b) GSAC Shirts still available

8) New Business

- a) GSAC Strategic Planning – look ahead to the year and make appropriate plans. Shoot to meet at beginning of September when most people are back on campus: Saturday, September 10 or September 24.
- b) Graduate Dean Search suggestions - Be able to listen to students, be knowledgeable about graduate education, on-campus, nation-wide. Be an advocate for graduate students.
- c) Problems with Financial Aid from several GSAC members. Stipends late. Department not submitting on time, or lack of processing by Financial Aid staff, or lack of clue by Financial Aid.

9) General Announcements and Briefs

- a) Next Meetings August 12, September 9

Recessed to Roadhouse to discuss “State of Graduate Education” at 4:00 p.m.