

Graduate Student Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Connable Board Room, The Bernhard Center
11.12.2004

Representatives Present: Todd Ide (chair), Sankar Shanmugam (vice chair), Venkat R Guduru (Chemistry), Jennifer Smith (Eng.), Marcel Browsers (English), Kelly Daniels (English), Peter Voice (Geosciences), Andrea Juarez (Psychology), Mike Eden (Management), Sharon Peterson (Edu. Studies), Andrew McNair (Art), Mimi Rohlfing (Music), Shadi Bajjali (Civil & Construction Engg.), Brad Salisbury (Mech. & Aero' Engg.), Lokendrapal (Paper & Printing Sci.), Seneca Cotterman (Occup. Therapy), Toni Strutz (Social Work), Tracy Kiel (Music Therapy)

Guests: Dr. William Wiener (Dean, Grad College), Nofil Syed (Accountancy), Ranjith Kanakasabha (Computer Science), Kristin Sheehan (Occup. Therapy), Soumya Das (Geosciences)

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m.

2. Introductions

3. Minutes approved

- Marcel moved, Jennifer Seconded. Motion passed.

4. Report from Dr. Kevin

- a) Enrollment Management Committee is one among the six groups under the new initiatives by the administration, which is under the leadership of Dr. Wiener
- b) Thank you for those who attended the focus group
- c) Difficulty in contacting the students who left for other universities after they got admitted at WMU to get the feedback, as a part of the new initiative
- d) Today Dr. Wiener is unable to attend because he is presenting the recommendation from the result of the focus group to the administration along with other six groups
- e)
- f)

5. Report from the Chair -Todd

- a)

6. GSAC Sub-Committees and University Councils

- a) Web Committee – Sankar
Currently the website has most of the department's representative's name and their email address. Members can email at gfac@wmich.edu if they have any suggestions of things that they want in the GSAC's website. Sharon Peterson, Educational Studies department representative is willing to serve on the web committee. Sankar welcomed her and they both will meet after the GSAC meeting to talk about the web issues.
- b) Public Relations – (No report)
- c) General Education subcommittee – Need a representative (No report)
- d) Legislative Affairs Committee – Need representative (No report)

- e) Graduate Research Symposium – Toni
 - The committee is planning to launch the symposium in March. The guidelines, name of the Journal will be discussed in the next sub-committee meeting. The committee is thinking about to let the GSAC review the journal that will be submitted, but no decision has been made
- f) University Councils
 - i) Research Policies Council – No report
 - ii) Technology and Operations Council – No report
 - iii) Graduate Studies Council – Todd/Marcel
 - (Dr. Wiener) Once MOA was covered and the other one will be addressed in the future
 - Graduate faculty status was presented
 - Getting ready for October 7th meeting.
 - iv) Campus Planning and Finance Council – Sankar
 - Two different issues were discussed. First one is, President Bailey has mentioned about the progress regarding the usage of buildings on the east campus. She also requested the council the names of three faculties who is willing to serve on a committee. She also mentioned that this committee would be able to explore state and federal funding, building options, etc.
 - Second part of the meeting is regarding the faculty travel arrangement issues. An associate professor from the psychology department shared with the council his frustration in arranging airfare, though he could find the cheapest flight ticket online, the booking fee that is added onto the cost of the airfare and the paperwork involved in processing a travel request through our university travel office. Bob Beam and Lowell Rinker are looking at alternative ways to streamline the travel process.
 - v) International Education Council – Paul
 - Reorganization of the International offices. There is a charge put by the faculty senate to merge these offices. These offices will develop a new program or method to better serve the student needs in the future.
- g) GFAC – Sankar
 - i) Pakistan Students Association requested \$1400 from GSAC for bringing a famous band. GFAC recommended GSAC give \$1400 to PSA; Sankar moved, Marcel seconded. Motion passed
 - ii) African Students Association requested \$4000 from GSAC towards the famous African Night event. GFAC recommended GSAC give \$1700 to ASA; Marcel moved, Mimi Rohlfing seconded. Motion passed
 - iii) Masters of Social Work Graduate Student Organization requested \$865 towards their artwork project. GFAC recommended GSAC give \$865 to MSWSO. Paul moved Sankar seconded. Motion 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) 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

8. New Business

- a) Stipend Checks Reminder (Dr. Kevin): Mails about to go out next week to the students who are appointees about their pay schedule, followed by the emails
- b) State of the public universities address (Sankar): State of the public universities address meeting held at Detroit on November 8th. The Oakland university president Dr. Russi was the speaker on behalf of the president's council. He mentioned that the public universities in the state of Michigan are working together to improve the quality of education with the given economic situation. He also mentioned that in a survey which found that 50% of the students who are getting their degrees in the state of Michigan are leaving Michigan due to several reasons such as; Job opportunities, better environment etc.

9. General Announcements

- a) Next GSAC, GFAC meeting – December 3rd 2004, January 14th 2005

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