

Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2013 @ 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Location: Room 200 – Whetten Graduate Center

Subject: Graduate Faculty Council (GFC) Meeting Minutes

Attendees: David Atkin, Janey Barnes-Farrell, Richard Bass, Preston Britner, Scott Brown, Andrea Calabrese, Sandra Chafouleas, Jason Charrette, Vernon Cormier, Steven Demurjian, George Elliott, Pam Erickson, Pouran Faghri, Gayanath Fernano, Miguel Gomes, Kent Holsinger, Matthew Hughey, William Kraemer, Barbara Kream, Kelley Newlin Lew, Louise Lewis, Charles Mahoney, Etan Markus, George Mcmanus, Mu-Ping Nieh, Kenneth Noll, Shayla Nunnally, Lynn Puddington, Mark Robbins, Dale Rose, Sue Saunders, Kathleen Segerson, Farhed Shah, Kumar Venkitanarayanan, Janet Watson and Chuanrong Zhang.

Absent: William Abikoff, Amy Anderson, Robert Aseltine, Sulin Ba, Rajeev Bansal, Ashis Basu, JC Beall, Safet Berisa, Harold Brody, Zhiyi Chi, John Clifford, James Cole, Sylvain Deguise, Kelly Dennis, Kimberly Dodge-Kafka, Mary Doyle, Anagnostou Emmanouil, Arthur Engler, Maria-Luz Fernandez, Ian Gutierres, Catherine Havens, Christopher Heinen, Orville Karan, Joseph Loturco, Chantelle Messier, Mina Mina, Daniel Mulkey, Richard Parnas, Gary Powell, Sanguthevar Rajasekaran, Gregory Semenza, Jiong Tang, Peter Turchin, Mark Urban, Paulo Verardi, and Glenn Warner.

Guest: Jim Wohl (University Ombuds) and Charmane Thurmand (Diversity Officer).

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM with Kent Holsinger, Vice Provost and Dean of The Graduate School, presiding.
2. Agenda item number two (2) – A*pproval of minutes of the meeting of April 17, 2013* – was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent.
3. The council noted that for historical purposes, this is the first GFC meeting in which Tom Peters was not present.
4. Agenda item number three (3) – *Kelly Jones (Graduate School Executive Assistant)* – was introduced as the new administrative support person for the GFC meetings.
5. Agenda item number four (4) – *Report on Multicultural Scholars Program (MSP)* – Charmane Thurmand (Graduate School Diversity Officer).
   1. The Multicultural Scholars Program (MSP) was defined.
   2. The Outstanding Multicultural Scholars Program (OMSO) was defined.
   3. The Developmental Framework for the MSP and OMSP was reviewed.
   4. Requirements for first and second year scholars were reviewed.
   5. Requirements of Scholars were reviewed.
6. Agenda item number five (5) – *Introduction and Conversation with Jim Wohl (UConn’s Ombuds Officer)*.
   1. What does an Ombuds Officer do and not do and the services of an Ombuds Officer provides were reviewed.
   2. Confidentiality (to the extent permitted by law), informalities, independence and role as a neutral party was discussed.
   3. The different principles that guide the Ombuds Officer’s processes were reviewed.
7. Agenda item number six (6) – *Report from Dean Kent Holsinger*.
   1. The Graduate School’s Academic Plan (to be sent via email to all).
   2. Staff re-alignment and new Graduate School staff.
   3. Fellowship Workshops.
   4. Health Insurance.
   5. On-line PhD dissertation.
   6. Review of Graduate School By-Laws (volunteers needed for committee).
   7. Graduate Faculty Status (volunteers needed for committee).
   8. Departmental Allocations (volunteers needed for committee)
   9. Fees, stipends and living expense concerns (see below).

*The GFC passed the following resolution. The GFC notes serious financial burdens placed on graduate students by high student fees and the potential negative impacts on graduate recruitment and retention by both these fees and recently reported plans to increase them, particularly those associated with a planned student recreation center. It is therefore recommended by the GFC that any graduate student fee increase be accompanied by a study that evaluates its impact on graduate students’ cost of living and graduate student recruitment and that includes a comprehensive evaluation option for mitigating any negative impacts.*

1. Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.