

Date: Wednesday, October 16, 2013 @ 3:07 p.m. to 4:16 p.m.

Location: Room 200 – Whetten Graduate Center

Subject: Graduate Faculty Council (GFC) Meeting Minutes Summary

Attendees: Robert Aseltine, David Atkin, Janet Barnes-Farrell, Richard Bass, JC Beall, Preston Britner, Scott Brown, Sandra Chafouleas, Jason Charrette, Zhiyi Chi, John Clifford, Vernon Cormier, Steven Demurjian, Mary Doyle, George Elliott, Pamela Erickson, Gayanath Fernando, Mary Fisher, Miguel Gomes, Ashley Helton, Kent Holsinger, William Kraemer, Kelley Newlin Lew, Charles Mahoney, Etan Markus, Sue Saunders, Kathleen Segerson, Jiong Tang, Mark Urban, and Chuanrong Zhang.

Video: Pam Deschaine, Kimberly Doge-Kafka, Christopher Heinen, Mina Mina, and Lynn Puddington.

Absent: William Abikoff, Amy Anderson, Sulin Ba, Ashis Basu, Safet Berisa, Harold Brody, Andrea Calabrese, James Cole, Sylvain Deguise, Kelly Dennis, Anagnostou Emmanouil, Pouran Faghri, Maria-Luz Fernandez, Ian Gutierres, Catherine Havens, Mark Healey, Michael Hren, Orville Karan, Louise Lewis, Joseph Loturco, George Mcmanus, Chantelle Messier, Daniel Mulkey, Mu-Ping Nieh, Kenneth Noll, Shayla Nunnally, Richard Parnas, Gary Powell, Sanguthevar Rajasekaran, Mark Robbins, Dale Rose, Karen Ryker, Gregory Semenza, Farhed Shah, Peter Turchin, Kumar Venkitanarayanan, Paulo Verardi, and Janet Watson.

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:07 pm with Moderator John Clifford presiding.
2. Agenda item number two (2) – A*pproval of minutes of the meeting of September 18, 2013* – was moved, seconded, and **passed by voice vote** after the underlined change was added to agenda item number six (6):

*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. Agenda item number three (3) – *Report from Jason Charrette, President GSS*. Discussion ensued and questions were raised.
   1. A recent report comparing 105 universities mandatory fees for “all students” ranked UConn the 10 highest. Among our peer or aspirant institutions, UConn ranked highest for insurance cost as we currently charge $1,000 more than other research universities in New England.
   2. The change in health insurance could cost roughly $4,000 more for departments per GA. An estimated $50,000 per department increase.
   3. There is a cause for concern because there is no cap on fees and currently there is an increase of 5% with the ability to increase even more. Thus, there is a fear of losing students to our peer or aspirant constituents.
2. Agenda item number four (4) *– Consideration of the proposal for new courses for graduate exchange (GRAD 5940 and GRAD 6940).* Kent Holsinger explained the proposal. Discussion ensued and questions were raised. Specific questions regarding item 13 – Attributes for off campus courses overseas are noted below.
   1. Is this restricted to formal contracts or agreements or should this be explained to include informal agreements?
   2. If formal agreements only, what options should we have for informal agreements?
   3. What agreements should we have for international agreements?
   4. Should this be restricted to course work or should it include lab work?
3. Agenda item number five (5) – *Report from Dean Kent Holsinger*. Discussion ensued and questions were raised.
   1. UConn’s 3 Minute Thesis winner video was viewed.
   2. Catalog updates were reviewed including the addition of post baccalaureate certificate programs. The GFC will be provided all changes for review.
   3. English Language Proficiency requirements changes will become effective Fall 2014 regarding TOEFL and ITAP testing scores. Kristi Newgarden, Director University of Connecticut American English Language Institute (UCAELI) will attend the November 20 meeting to address specifics on the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) proficiency levels and the new changes at UConn.
   4. Starting next year, graduate students may be asked a voluntary question regarding their prior criminal history. Currently the legal implications are being reviewed.
   5. The work study tax of 25% for graduate students was reviewed. A discussion regarding the serious threat to a graduate student who applies for work study and the department unable to fund the 25% would result in the student not getting the work study. It was noted that if the cost is passed on to departments, departments should be given a budget. It was raised that there needs to be a resolution to this matter.
4. Meeting adjourned at 4:16 pm.