

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 @ 3:02 pm to 3:56 pm

Location: HBL Class of 1947 Conference Room

Subject: Graduate Faculty Council (GFC) Meeting Minutes Summary

Attendees: Kari Adamsons, Hector Aguila, Victoria Blodgett (Ex Officio), Janet Barnes-Farrell, Richard Bass (Chair), Andrew Bush, Patrick Butler, Jason Charrette, Craig Denegar, Kimberly Dodge-Kafka, Morgan Donaldson, Pouran Faghri, Maria-Luz Fernandez, Mary Fischer, Miguel Gomes, Jane Anna Gordon, Mark Hamilton, Christopher Heinen, Ashley Helton, Kent Holsinger (Ex Officio), Kelly Jones (Ex Officio, Secretary), Barbara Kream (Ex Officio), Jon Gajeuski Ling, Charles Mahoney, George McManus, Shayla Nunnally, Vladimir Pozdnyakov, Victoria Robinson, Farhed Shah, Juliette Shellman (substitute for Ivy Alexander), Michael Smith, Tammie Spaulding, Timothy Vadas, Kumar Venkitanarayanan, and Janet Watson

Absent: Zhiyi Chi, Joanne Conover, Steven Demurjian, Mary Anne Doyle, Gerald Dunne, Mitch Green, Thomas Kehle, Louise Lewis, Daniel Mulkey, Gary Powell, Heather Read, Mark Robbins, Sue Saunders, Cristian Schulthess, Kathleen Segerson, and Anji Seth.

1. Agenda item number one (1) – *Call to order* was introduced at 3:02 by Richard Bass.
2. Agenda item number two (2) – Presented for consideration and voting – *Approval of minutes from the January 21 Meeting* was introduced by Richard Bass and opened for discussion. The minutes were approved with the following changes:
 - a) Janet Watson was present but was listed as absent.
 - b) Nic Ferron's name was misspelled.
3. Agenda item number three (3) – *Report from Jason Charrette, President of Graduate Student Senate* was introduced by Richard Bass and opened for discussion. Jason informed the Committee that:
 - I. The GSS is working on providing award(s) that promotes, does not restrict, grad students for doing excellent work in the classroom and/or in the community. Jason informed the Committee that they may nominate a student by sending an e-mail to gss@gmail.com.
 - b) The GSS survey on housing and busing is completed and 50% of the students indicated that they would live on campus if there was resident housing provided. Currently, grad students must live off campus.
 - c) In regards to the budget cut, UConn will not be raising fees for graduate students as there is a current surplus. However; MBA, Medical and Law students may see an increase.
 - d) Jason would like for the Committee to help raise awareness about Mental Health Resources for graduate students. The GSS is working with Michael Gilbert to also assist in this matter.
 - e) The Rec Center has had positive outcomes and may provide child care on certain days.
 - f) Jason reminded the Committee that he only has 2 months left as President of the Graduate Student Senate.
4. Agenda item number four (4) – Presented for voting– *Graduate School catalog changes* was introduced by Richard Bass and opened for discussion by Kent Holsinger. Dean Holsinger reviewed the changes with the Committee and noted a few changes. The agenda item was **approved and passed** pending corrections.
5. Agenda item number five (5) – *Report from Dean Holsinger*.
 - a) Dean Holsinger reminded the Committee to nominate students for Phi Kappa Phi. All nominations are being handled by Jill Deans.
 - b) Dean Holsinger informed the Committee that this will be Kelly's last meeting for the AY. Martha Marroni will be her replacement while she's out.

- c) Dean Holsinger informed the Committee that remodeling work in the Whetten Graduate Center will start next week. The lobby of the Grad School will be closed in mid-April and access to the Graduate School will be through the back door. The lobby will reopen approximately May 1.
- d) Dean Holsinger stated that the Governor addressed the State's budget earlier this afternoon. Accordingly, there will be a 4% cut over the next 2 years.
 - I. 228 Million this year
 - II. 219.4 million next year
 - III. No change in Fiscal Year 2017
- e) Dean Holsinger reminded the Committee that starting this summer, there will be two new questions on The Graduate School application that require students to self-identify if have been committed of a crime or subject to disciplinary action in college. The logistics are still being reviewed and the answers will not be seen by the departments.

6. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 11, 2015**.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 3:56.