

Date: Wednesday, March 23, 2016

Location: School of Business Conference Room 321

Subject: Graduate Faculty Council (GFC) Meeting Minutes Summary

Attendees: Kari Adamsons, Daniel Adler, Ivy Alexander, Mary Anne Amalaradjou, Brian Aneskievich, David Atkin (sub for Mark Hamilton), Janet Barnes-Farrell, Richard Bass (Moderator), Victoria Blodgett (Ex-Officio), Audrey Chapman, Michael Chybowsky (sub for Dramatic Arts), Steven Demurjian, Craig Denegar, Pamela Diggle, Kimberly Dodge, Valerie Duffy, Maria-Luz Fernandez, Miguel Gomes, Ashley Helton, Kent Holsinger (Ex Officio), Lawrence Klobutcher, Barbara Kream (Ex-Officio) Louise Lewis, Dorothy McCoach, George McManus, Barbara Parziale (Ex Officio – Secretary), Anthony Patelunas, Michelle San Pedro, Farhed Shah, Timothy Vadas, Janet Watson and Chuanrong Zhang

Absent: Hector Aguila, David Benson, Laura Burton, Andrew Bush, Zhiyi Chi, Kelly Dennis (teaching abroad), Manisha Desai, Mary Anne Doyle, Gerald Dunne, Jon Gajewski, Jane Gordon, Mitchell Green, Mark Hamilton, Bryan Huey, Yulia Kuzovkina-Eischen, Charles Mahoney (sabbatical), Daniel Mulkey, Lirio K. Negroni, Gary Powell, Subhash Ray, Heather Read, Guillermo Risatti, Mark Robbins, Victoria Robinson, Kathleen Segerson, Gregory Semenza, Zeki Simsek, Michael Smith, David Solomon, Tammie Spaulding (sabbatical), Ranjan Srivastava, David Stern, Jiong Tang, and Qing Zhu

1. Agenda item number one (1) – Call to order. Moderator Bass called to order the regular meeting of the GFC for March 23, 2016 at 3:05 pm.
2. Agenda item number two (2) – Approval of Minutes. Moderator Bass introduced the minutes of the February 17, 2016 meeting to the GFC. There was a motion offered, which was seconded and the motion was adopted in favor of all members present. **Agenda item number two (2) was passed unanimously without dissent on a show of hands.**
3. Agenda item number three (3) – Report from Anthony Patelunas, President of the Graduate Student Senate (GSS). Moderator Bass introduced Patelunas who reported the following:
 - a. The Graduate Student Prom was a success with 400 people in attendance.
 - b. Grad Student Appreciation week is coming up.
 - c. A group of students attended the Paris conference of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change shortly after the terrorist attacks last fall. Students from EEB who were part of the group presented a letter to the GSS requesting the Foundation to divest their holdings in fossil fuels. GSS is considering whether to endorse the call.
4. Agenda item number four (4) – New Business, Updates and Announcements
 - a. Graduate Faculty Status: JC Beall, chairperson, will be coming to the next GFC meeting to discuss the criteria for initial and continuing appointments to the graduate faculty. A committee will be established to determine how to create advising language for The Graduate School catalog. The committee will include representatives of the GFC, the EC, and 2-3 additional faculty.
 - b. Review of advising patterns: Patterns of graduate advising in some professional masters and doctoral programs do not follow the “traditional” MA, MS, and PhD model. Representatives from such programs are needed to assist in drafting language that can be incorporated in the graduate catalog.
 - c. GFC Election Procedure: Electronic elections will be held in the future for the GFC. According to the Grad School catalog, elections need to be open for 2 weeks. Because elections will be electronic, it will only be necessary to keep them open for 1 week. A motion was offered, which was seconded, and the motion to change the election procedure was adopted in favor by all members present. **Agenda item four c (4c) was passed unanimously without dissent on a show of hands.**
 - d. 3MT: The 3 Minute Thesis competition will again be held in the fall with a live competition. Details to follow.

- e. New Recreation Center: The demolition of Connecticut Commons will commence after graduation in May. The new recreation center is scheduled to open in the fall of 2019.
 - f. Library Master Plan: The library has released a new master plan in which space the Roper Center occupied on the third floor will become a graduate student common room to be used to socialize, study or for use by the GSS.
 - g. Graduate Student Appreciation Week: Assistant Dean Victoria Blodgett discussed the agenda for the week of April 2 through April 9.
 - h. Post-Doc Scholars Compensation and Benefits: A very old policy exists regarding Post-Doc compensation and benefits that needs to be updated to include at least the minimum standards specified by NIH stipends.
5. There was a motion offered for adjournment, which was seconded and the motion was adopted in favor by all members present. The motion was passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned 3:43 pm with 31 individuals present; 4 via video.
6. The next regular meeting of the GFC is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 13th in the HBL Class of 1947 Conference Room. (Please note the change of venue.)**