

Graduate Administrators Council (GAC)

Koch Hall Administrators Board Room

Thursday, April 2, 2009

9:00-10:30 a.m.

Attending: Phil Langlais, chair, Brenda Neumon Lewis, Chris Osgood, Laurel Garzon, Mike Overstreet, Bonnie Van Lunen, Robert Wojtowicz, Ted Remley, Isao Ishibashi, Osman Akan, Ali Ardalan, Brenda Stevenson-Marshall, Yin Xu

Approval of March 19, 2009 Minutes

Minutes approved without changes.

Updates/Announcements

Dr. Phil Langlais announced that workshops for the new BDMS system are underway and several GPDs have not completed or signed up for a training session. Dr. Langlais requested the associate deans remind their GPDs to take one of the BDMS training workshops. Requests for additional workshop dates and any specific questions about the workshops should be posed to Steve Risch, Director of International Admissions.

Dr. Langlais distributed the CGS consultant report to Council. He stated the report had been distributed at last week's Provost Council meeting and that the deans had unanimously rejected the consultants' recommendation that ODU have one centralized graduate school/college. He indicated that the deans and provost prefer a decentralized model in which each college has its own internal graduate school. The provost is planning a retreat to further discuss these suggestions. Dr. Laurel Garzon asked, what internal graduate college means? Dr. Brenda Neumon Lewis, who was at the last Provost Council, responded that it meant each college would be responsible for its graduate programs.

Dr. Langlais distributed the Strategic Enrollment Management Steering Committee's Decisions on Recommendations. He reported that the SEM Steering committee had deferred its decision regarding the recommendations on graduate studies until after the CGS Consultant Report was received. At last week's meeting with the chairs of the SEM sub-committee Dr. Langlais shared the Provost Council's decisions and suggested that Alice McAdory, associate vice president for enrollment management, sit and discuss the CGS report and the Provost Council's recommendations with the provost.

Dr. Langlais distributed the recommendations of the SEM Graduate Committee regarding assessment of quality and viability of graduate programs and the need to establish strategic priorities. Dr. Langlais reported that the SEM Graduate Committee requested that the Provost and the academic deans use the metrics provided in its recommendations to guide allocation of resources and enrollment targets.

Dr. Langlais reported that approval of the Office of Graduate Studies' Vision/Mission Statement and Goals/Objectives has been put on hold until the Provost and Academic deans decide on role of the Office of Graduate Studies.

Graduate Recruitment Policy

Council reviewed the Inclusiveness Statement written by Drs. Chris Osgood and Brenda Stevenson-Marshall and the changes made by Dr. Langlais. Dr. Garzon stated that faculty diversity is also important and should be reflected in the statement and suggested adding "and faculty" after "graduate student body" in numbers 1 and 2 of the statement. Dr. Ali Ardalan suggested removing the phrase "talent pool" because diversity should not be related to talent. After a lengthy discussion Council agreed that the statement should be representative of graduate students and faculty at ODU and that "talent pool" would be

removed. Council agreed that this new inclusive statement should appear in the graduate catalog after the mission statement. Dr. Osgood expressed concern about including the CGS website URL in the statement because it could change over time. Dr. Langlais recommended that we capture the current CGS statement in a pdf file, provide the proper attribution to CGS and incorporate the pdf file in our ODU statement,

Council unanimously approved that suggestion and the following statement:

Old Dominion University's Inclusiveness Statement

Old Dominion University is proud to be a community of scholars dedicated to the principles of equity, inclusion and diversity. Our first priority is the provision of the richest and most effective educational experience possible. We recognize the unique contribution of each person engaged in graduate study at Old Dominion University and encourage applications from individuals reflective of underrepresented and underserved populations.

In particular, we embrace the principles that:

1. A diverse graduate student body and faculty best serves the interests of higher education and our nation;
2. A diverse student body and faculty enhances the respect for diverse opinions and intellectual exploration, regardless of the source of that new knowledge;
3. Our graduates will work and thrive in a diverse environment; fostering that inclusiveness in graduate education promotes the ultimate success.

Old Dominion University subscribes to the principles of diversity and inclusiveness enunciated by the Council of Graduate Schools, <http://www.csgnet.org>.

Updates from 2008-09 Sub Committees

a. University Thesis/Dissertation

Dr. Robert Wojtowicz reported that Dr. Mona Danner will have a report at the next GAC meeting.

b. GTA Institute (Criteria for Evaluation of Oral Presentation and Recommendation for Continued Training)

Dr. Ardalan reported that he is still researching and will have a report at the next GAC meeting.

Candidacy Requirements

Dr. Ted Remley raised several questions regarding the meaning of "advancement to candidacy," and what happens to a doctoral student when s/he becomes a candidate? Dr. Wojtowicz stated that a student is then able to register for one credit. Dr. Mike Overstreet stated that there are differences in each college, including career advantages for ABD students. Dr. Remley then asked what an appropriate dissertation proposal is. Council responded that proposals differ by college. Dr. Garzon referred to the candidacy statement in the current graduate catalog stating that it was worded to represent the diversity of all the colleges. Dr. Wojtowicz added that students should finish their proposals before the completion of their

coursework. Further discussion re-emphasized that advancement to candidacy requirements are uniform across the university but ABD requirements are not.

Continued Discussion on Continuous Enrollment Policy

There was a lengthy discussion on the issue of the continuous enrollment policy. Dr. Wojtowicz began by stating his position that it is unnecessary for students to pay tuition during the summer and that no other students are required to do so. Some of the salient points that were raised were faculty not on staff during the summer and working without pay, will students complete their degrees in a timely fashion, the length of the academic year, and the implications of ending the policy. Dr. Bonnie Van Lunen asked if students will have access to resources such as labs during the summer. Council agreed that a student should not have access to university resources during the summer if they are not enrolled.

Dr. Garzon suggested the GPD can make an exception during the summer rather than the rule. Dr. Neumon Lewis stated that there is a need for overarching guidelines for who should or should not be enrolled. Dr. Ardalan recommended strict enforcement and gave the following example of enforcement: a student who has received an exception and sends just one e-mail to a faculty seeking information, advice, etc., would immediately be charged with a 1 cr hr enrollment. An analysis of financial impact of such a policy was suggested. Dr. Ardalan argued that a decision to go forward with this policy should not depend on a financial impact analysis. Council to continue the discussion of an exception criteria to the next meeting of GAC.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:30 a.m.