

Graduate Administrators Council (GAC)
Minutes of Thursday, September 23, 2010
Koch Hall Board Room
9:00-10:30 a.m.

Attending: Brenda Neumon Lewis, Chair, Sarah Snowden, Robert Wojtowicz, Mona Danner, Bonnie Van Lunen, Sharon Judge, Christopher Osgood, Mike Overstreet, Ali Ardalan, David Selover, Osman Akan, Isao Ishibashi, Martha Walker, Richardean Benjamin, Dennis Gregory, Mary Swartz

Guests: Bill McMahon, Sharon Joyner

Approval of September 9, 2010 Minutes

- Minutes were approved.

Announcements/Updates- B. Lewis

NRC Release of Data

- Dr. Lewis indicated that the information from NRC has been released and is being reviewed. This information will be sent next week to the Dean's and Chairs of the participating Doctoral Research programs. She indicated there is a lot of data included in the report e.g. time to degree, support for grad students and faculty productivity.

CGS Global Agreement on Principles to Assess Graduate Programs

- Information on the Principles to Assess Graduate Programs was included in the packets. These principles were agreed to at a global conference sponsored by CGS. There was a brief discussion on this information.

Revision of GRE

- Dr. Lewis shared the brochure regarding the changes planned for the GRE. Dr. Wojtowicz suggested that students be notified of this information so they can prepare for testing. Dr. Lewis indicated that she would be attending the CGS Conference where she will get more information and the expected timeline for the changes.

RCR Update

- Dr. Lewis stated that she and Mary Swartz met with Dr. Rubenstein regarding RCR implementation. Dr. Rubenstein has a protocol developed for students. This will be posted on the Office of Research and Graduate Studies website. Associate Deans and GPD's will receive this information next week. All students who began in fall 2010 semester in a graduate program are subject to the RCR policy. Students must complete the 7 modules in their first 12 months of enrollment. The Office of the Registrar will place a non-fatal hold on the student account if they do not complete the RCR requirements. The non-fatal hold will notify the student that they need to complete the requirement after the first semester. After the 4th semester of enrollment they will have a fatal hold on their account and students will not be able to register without completing the RCR.

- Dr. Judge asked, “Why do Education students need to take the animal subjects module?” There was further discussion on the requirements for students in different disciplines. The consensus was that the wording in the policy needs to be reviewed and that the modules students are required to take should fit the field of the student. It was agreed that the current policy on RCR will be continued and in the next semester a committee will review the policy to determine if recommendations for changes should be made.

Discussion, Process for Funding of Graduate Assistants-B. McMahon

- Bill McMahon stated his role and newly added responsibilities in the funding of graduate assistants process. He stated that he has requested a report from the Office of Finance regarding the financial process. He will forward this information to Council upon receiving this information.
- A suggestion was raised to have a meeting with the Office of Financial Aid, Office of Finance and E1S Processing and those in the Colleges who handle the financial aspect in their department after the report has been received.
- There was a brief discussion on ways to improve the financial process. Several suggestions were made: (1) increasing the number of tuition waivers that are available to the colleges, (2) working to clarify how to use tuition waivers and (3) allowing colleges to decide when fellowships or assistantships are better recruitment tools. Bill McMahon indicated that he will work on these suggestions.

Policies on Program Dismissal-M. Swartz

- Mary Swartz raised the issue of students being dismissed by the graduate program. She indicated that the Office of the Registrar often is not notified of these dismissals. She requested that GPD’s email their program dismissal policies to her and to Dr. Lewis. Dr. Lewis stated these policies are part of the whole continuance process and should be in the Graduate Catalog. GPD’s should notify the Office of Graduate Studies whenever a student is dismissed from a program.

Discussion, Granting Experiential Credit to Graduate Students-S. Joyner

- Sharon Joyner shared her role in assisting students to earn experiential credit. She explained the resources and options that students may choose from: examination, training in the workforce, and portfolio. Graduate students are allowed to earn a maximum of six credits of experiential credit.

Issues of Decentralization

- Dr. Osgood stated the issue of health insurance for graduate students should be discussed so we can keep this before the administration. Council members agreed and Dr. Lewis said she would put it on the agenda for discussion.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:13