

Graduate Administrators Council (GAC)
Minutes of Thursday, November 4, 2010
Koch Hall Board Room
8:30-10:00 a.m.

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

Guests: Kate Broderick

Approval of October 21, 2010 Minutes

- Minutes were approved.

Announcements/Updates- B. Lewis

Call for Nominations for Doctoral Mentoring Award

- Dr. Lewis stated that she emailed the Associate Deans the announcement of the Doctoral Mentoring Awards. She indicated that this year there would be 1 winner from: the College of Arts and Letters, the Darden College of Education, and the College of Health Sciences with a prize of \$2000.00 for each winner. She encouraged Council to spread the word to their faculty, GPD's and students to nominate strong candidates.
- There was discussion on the process of the Doctoral Mentoring Awards and ideas of how to improve it. There was consensus that the award might be more prestigious if only one winner was selected. It was also suggested that we explore ways to make it less onerous for the nominees. It was suggested by Council to discuss ideas for changes for the 2011-2012 cycle. Dr. Lewis indicated she would bring the topic back to Council in the spring.

Spring New Graduate Student Orientation

- Dr. Lewis stated that the spring New Graduate Student Orientation is scheduled for Tuesday, January 4, 2011.

Spring GTAI Institute

- Dr. Lewis stated that the spring GTAI Institute is scheduled for Thursday, January 6, 2011 for the University level and Friday, January 7, 2011 for the college level. She also stated that the SPEAK Test is scheduled for Tuesday, January 4, 2011 and the retake SPEAK Test is scheduled for Wednesday, January 5, 2011.
- Dr. Lewis indicated that she had met with Karen Medina in an effort to schedule the GTAI Institute earlier, as was suggested in the previous evaluation, but determined that this is not possible at this time due to the time needed to score the SPEAK Test.

Graduate Research Forum

- Dr. Lewis stated that the VCGS Graduate Research Forum is scheduled for Thursday, February 3, 2011. She also indicated that she will be sending an email to the Department Chairs, Associate Deans, and GPD's requesting nominations of students whose research

links to the workforce and economic issues that are important to Virginia. She emphasized the nominees need to be well into their research to be considered.

Responsible Conduct of Research Procedures

- Mary Swartz stated that she is working on the reporting aspect of the RCR.
- Dr. Lewis stated that she will send a reminder of the RCR policy to the Associate Deans and GPD's to notify all students who matriculated in a graduate program **fall 2010** to complete the RCR. The fatal hold will be in effect only after 13 months.
- There was a lively discussion on the modules that students need to complete for the RCR. This led to several suggestions for changes.
- Dr. Lewis reminded Council that in the previous Council meeting it was decided to revisit the RCR policy before the end of the academic year. Council agreed to adhere to this decision.

Discussion on Technical Standards for Graduate Programs

- Dr. Lewis introduced Kate Broderick, Acting Director of Disability Services to Council. Ms. Broderick went over the purpose and benefits of having technical standards. She indicated that there should be technical standards for each graduate program and shared examples. She stated the technical standards should not be too specific.
- There was a discussion on exit technical standards and accommodations for students. Dr. Ardalan raised the question about admitting students who may desire to study an academic area but who do not have the ability to function or gain employment in the field. Dr. Gregory and Ms. Broderick indicated this question was part of a national discussion. Council members agreed to review their programs' technical standards.

Discussion of 500, 600, 700/800 Course Designations-O. Akan

- Dr. Akan reviewed the revised language in the course numbering policy.
- There was a lively discussion on the change of internship numbering. Dr. Lewis pointed out the language and description for internships had been in the previous catalogs, had not been changed and was not what was being addressed at this time.
- Council made final revisions of the language in the course numbering policy. Dr. Akan will make these changes. Dr. Lewis indicated the next step is for the recommended policy to be reviewed by Provost Council.

Additional Topics

- Dr. Lewis announced that the Graduate Student Organization (GSO) will be having 3 recruiting and orientation meetings in Webb Center on November 9, November 10 and November 23. There was discussion on funding for GSO and how to receive more support for graduate students. Dr. Lewis stated that after the meetings, she would have Matt Loesch, the GSO President, attend and update Council on GSO. She also stated that she will send the flyer on the meeting dates to Council electronically so they could distribute it to their students.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:57