

Graduate Deans Group
Thursday, September 4, 2008, 2:00 – 3:15 p.m.
4th Floor Conference Room, Andy Holt Tower

Attending:

Vincent Anfara, Joy DeSensi (Chair), William Dunne, Thomas George, Jan Lee, Sally McMillan, Buddy Moore, Carol Parker, Cynthia Rocha, Luther Williams for Masood Parang, Gregory Sedrick, Carolyn Hodges, Mohanan M. K., Linda Phillips, Kay Reed.

The Graduate Council meeting was called to order by Joy DeSensi, on Thursday, September 4, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. in the 4th Floor Conference Room, Andy Holt Tower.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Joy DeSensi, Chair, welcomed the committee. Introductions were made.

2. Minutes of the Preceding Meeting

The minutes of the February 14, 2008 meeting were approved by the Graduate Council Deans Group.

3. Role and Function of the Graduate Deans Group

Joy DeSensi, reviewed the Operating Guidelines which state that the Graduate Deans Group roles were to provide advise and counsel to the Graduate Council and to ensure that information is shared with the academic units.

4. Changes to the Operating Guidelines

Joy DeSensi requested that the Operating Guidelines are to be reviewed and recommendations for changes are to be made. The guidelines will change to Bylaws per Graduate Council request. The method of proxy selection for the Graduate Deans Group should be included.

5. Ad Hoc Committee for Graduate Program Closures

Matthew Murray, Past Chair of the Graduate Council pointed out that the President's proposal for closing the Departments of Audiology and Speech Pathology and Industrial and Organizational Psychology had not been approved by the Graduate Council. The elimination of these programs was not based on the quality of the program but on budget cuts. Faculty Senate requested Graduate Council to form an ad-hoc committee to review the termination proposal for each program to determine if the program indicators supported program closure. The committee will use program reviews and the broad AAUP guidelines to assist them in determining the criteria. The report of the Graduate Council ad-hoc committee is due to the Faculty Senate by October 13.

It was noted that Jan Simek, Interim Chancellor, stated that the closures were not an issue of program quality, but budgetary issues. The centrality of the instruction in the Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology to campus needs was questioned. Susan Martin,

Interim Provost, has established a task force to develop long term policies and procedures. Information will be collected by queries to Graduate Student Senate, colleges, department heads, and faculty. Strategic plans for the colleges need to ensure that it fulfills the university mission. The process of evaluating programs should allow the recommendations for improvement to be shared with faculty members; and then, if the changes are not made, the program will then lead to a closure.

Vincent Anfara, Chair of the Graduate Council, stated that the Faculty Senate has established a Faculty Senate Effectiveness Task Force, chaired by Candace White to evaluate the Faculty Senate's effectiveness and procedures. Surveys will be distributed to the faculty. Communication and commitment are concerns of the task force. Vincent expressed concern with the Graduate Council being under the purview of the Faculty Senate, and feels that it is a better fit under the Graduate School.

Vincent requested advice from the Graduate Deans Group in reviewing of the variety of doctoral degrees. There appears to be a need for minimum requirements of research hours, dissertations, and 600 classes for various doctoral degrees. The curriculum committee doesn't have criteria to evaluate the requests for Ph.D., doctoral, and professional degree programs.

6. Moratorium on Graduate Curricula

Carolyn Hodges, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, stated that a decision to delay the moratorium occurred at Council of Deans meeting. The registrar is talking with Susan Martin about changing the contract date. The moratorium would be necessary due to the fact that there is a lack of staff and that Banner and the digital on-line catalog will occur simultaneously.

7. Digital Archiving of Scholarships

Linda Phillips, Professor in Library Science, explained digital showcasing. Sarah Gardial and she will be co-chairing the Scholarly Communication Committee. The Scholarly Communication Website can showcase departments and increase the university's visibility, which is great for recruitment. Disclosure, homeland security issues in thesis/dissertations and web published articles are a concern. Accountability of these articles placed on the website falls on the departments. Policy statements from other institutions are being reviewed to help establish university guidelines.

8. Future Agenda Items

Linda Phillips requested to return with more information regarding the digital showcasing.

Reminders were given to attend the forums of the chancellor candidates.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gay Henegar
Secretary to Graduate Deans' Group