

Graduate Student Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Connable Board Room, The Bernhard Center

04-14-06

Representatives Present: Todd Ide (chair), Kelly Daniels (vice chair), Toni Strutz (Social Work), Jan Miller (Social Work), Lokendra Pal (Paper and Printing Sci and Eng), Doris Dirks (past GSAC chair), Kazuhiro Iwamoto (Biological Sciences), Nate Michon (Comparative Religion), Kinfu Adisu (Teaching, Learning and Leadership), Brad Salisbury (Mech and Aero Engineering), Marcel Brouwers (Former Chair), Jenny Powell (Chemistry), Nuria Ibanez (Spanish), Jason Nuzzo (Performing Arts Admin),

Guests: Kevin Vichcales (Graduate College), Michael Cesal (Philosophy), Rosana Abu Alsaud (Finance), June Gothberg (EMR), Pamela R. Hayman (Social Work)

1. Call to order: 4:00
2. Introductions
3. Approval of Minutes: edits suggested. Moved by Brad, seconded by Lokendra with changes. Motion carries.
4. Report from Dr. Ronald Davis: not present
5. Report from Dr. Kevin Vichcales: New Grad Dean hired, Pyenson. Will join us June 15th. He will lead efforts to institute program review decisions. Dissertation competition complete, five awards. March 15th deadline for travel grants. The committee will meet next week to finalize decisions. Should have the money to cover all requests. Looking to fund 100% of awards. Faculty travel will be risen to \$700, up from \$500. Creative Scholar awards and Teaching Effectiveness awards given out. Overall the competition is getting tougher and tougher. University Dames awards under review. Fisher Gerontology Prize similarly under review.
6. Report from the Chair: Last day for free registration at the Medieval Congress is tomorrow, select Kalamazoo County resident while registering on web.
7. GSAC Sub-Committees and University Councils
 - a. Web Committee – Kelly Daniels: still working on calendar page. Hoping to improve the aesthetics. Looking for volunteers for History and Former Chair pages. Doris agrees to help
 - b. Public Relations – Toni Strutz: Toni Leaving, so new chair needed
 - c. Graduate Research Symposium and Journal – Chris Jones: not present. Still in process of reviewing articles
 - d. University Councils**
 - i. Research Policies Council (2) – Chris Jones & Adam Milewski: Not present, but Kevin stepped in. We haven't seen correlation between FRACAS seed money and long term payoff. Seeking input to how best to utilize an Upjohn building we can use for wet lab space. We may or may not save money this way, but the physical separation issues might cause problems. Currently being debated. Marcel asks why this is being debated. It was the President's decision
 - ii. Graduate Studies Council (2) – Toni Strutz & Todd Ide: Fall 2007, 9 credits full time status begins, 6 for GAs. Student loan issues for 6 credit students not solved. This will probably have enrollment consequences. Carnegie ranking status has dropped.
 - iii. Campus Planning and Finance Council (1) – Brad Salisbury: discussion centered on what to do about Miller Plaza, now that renovations and new buildings are going on. The area will change, become a center of liberal arts and fine arts, and should be reconsidered. Council wants to keep a water feature, but current fountain is too large and only operational part time. They are considering more of a sculpture styled fountain. Also reconsidering the sidewalks, while

maintaining open, grassy space. Decided to hold a series of focus groups to review various plans for Miller Plaza. Kevin points out the impracticality of green space in this high traffic area.

iv. Assessment - Kelly Daniels: Dean and Associate Dean of College of Engineering, and Dean of College of Education visited. Both wanted more connection between outside accreditation and assessment reports. All are invited to panel discussion, Friday, April 21, 1:30-3:30, Fetzer

v. International Education Council (1) – Kinfu Adisu: invites us to examine the included minutes. Why aren't international students staying? Enrollment is down. Graduate students especially. Council is attempting to understand this and affect change. 6 to 9 credit hour change is a large issue, visa wise. Also, competition from Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Europe is affecting enrollment. Administration is looking for faculty feedback. Kinfu is leery of this tactic. Kazu is critical of the effectiveness of the OISS, much agreement. Kevin points out the many from that office have been fired recently. Hopefully things will improve with new staff.

e. GFAC – Kelly Daniels

i. Proposals (pgs. 9 - 12): Chem Grad Stud Assoc; \$1995 for professional development event. \$500 for operational expenses. Motion by Brad to table event, and approve operational expenses. Seconded by Kazu. Motion carries. Kinfu opposes. He feels we should deny funding for professional development

f. MLK Committee – Doris Dirks: went to NAGPS meeting in Boulder. Presented workshop, well received. Will send minutes

g. CAB representative –

h. WSA representative –

8. Old and Continuing Business

a. Chair Search Committee – Doris: we have reopened the search. We couldn't find consensus, and so will keep trying. New deadline is May 1st.

9. New Business:

a. Many new replacements needed; Todd, Toni, and Brad all departing

b. Jan: Health Insurance. Decided on a company. Will be vision and dental, optional. A little more expensive than last year, but not much. Many more services. Kevin says the insurance group is the best out there.

10. General Announcements & Briefs

b. Unionization – Keith Russo and Jason Olson: not present. Vote next week

c. Announcements for the Good of the Order: Jason pitches Gilmore Festival. Classical and Jazz. Heavy hitters. Student tickets \$5. Marcel asks about President canceling dinner. Brad says he asked legal council. GSAC has TAs for members, so dinner would appear as a possible impropriety before the vote. Doris: event, FTM North Conference, Sat, 9th; Sarah Weddington, will speak of the state of Roe v. Wade, Wednesday, April 19th

d. Next GFAC meeting(s) – May 12th

e. Next GSAC meeting(s) – May 12th

11. General Discussion “The State of Graduate Schools”

12. Adjourn