

THE GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Friday, January 12, 2001
Bernhard Center, Connable Board Room

MINUTES

Representatives Present: Daryl Arkwright (Biology), Jessica Bobe (History), Marcel Brouwers (English), Jay Cawthorne (Paper Printing Sciences and Engineering), Carmen Cornieles (Education), Sarah Dempsey (Communication), Doris Dirks (History), Nancy Greer-Williams (Communication), Martha Freundlich (Sociology), Kurt Hayden (Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering), Sabbir Hossain (Physics), Kelly Jackson (Business), Tim Kuehnlein (Political Science), Peter Lawson (Anthopology), Scott Smith (Medieval Institute), Julie Stahlhut (Biology), Gerald Unterreiner (Geosciences), Tim Williams (Music), Deborah Wilson (Sociology), Rodger Zanny (Computer Science)

Guests: Paula Boodt (The Graduate College), Amy Nelson (Student Affairs), Chad True (WSA)

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m..

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the December 8, 2000 GSAC meeting were presented.

III. PRESENTATIONS

Carolyn Hornev from Career Services presented GSAC with information about her office. A student career guide was distributed to each representative. She promoted Career Fair 2000, and encouraged graduate students to take advantage of opportunities geared specifically for them. The fair is scheduled for Thursday, February 1 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Bernhard Center.

Dr. William Wiener, Senior Associate Dean of the Graduate College, provided GSAC with an update on a variety of issues related to the Graduate College. He stated that the Graduate Studies Council would meet on January 25 in order to address policy changes recommended by the Graduate College regarding continuous enrollment, course incompletes, and extensions for earning graduate degrees.

Regarding continuous enrollment (the need to be enrolled for at least one credit hour of dissertation work), the Graduate College is recommending that students must be registered only during the fall and winter semesters. Spring and summer semesters will be exempt from the continuous enrollment policy if the student is pre-enrolled for the following academic year.

Regarding course incompletes, the Graduate College is recommending that an "I" should no longer be changed to an "X" on transcripts. A grade change will not, however, be permitted after one year from the date at which the incomplete is issued. The student will receive no credit for the course, and the GPA will not be affected.

Regarding extensions for earning degrees, there is currently a six/seven year timeframe in which the degree must be earned (Master's and Ph.D. respectively). The Graduate College is recommending that this policy should be enforced more strictly in order to encourage completion of degree within the reasonable timeframe. Sound justification must be made to the Graduate College for exceptions.

Additionally, Dr. Wiener announced that partially financed health care benefits would be made available to graduate assistants/associates by July 1, 2001. Concerning the Graduate College move, personnel will be available from 5-7 PM on Mondays and Wednesdays in Sangrin Hall and from 8AM-5PM on Mondays and Wednesdays in Friedmann Hall. Graduate student parking is available behind the Little Theatre for those who want to visit the Graduate College at Walwood Hall on East Campus. Wiener stated that the Graduate College is considering the extension of tuition remission to six credit hours for each semester. Finally, he stated that there is no resolution of the Red Card being replaced with Bronco Cards as of yet.

IV. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair reported that the new GSAC telephone number is 387-8207. She encouraged people to attend the MLK Day events, and solicited volunteers for the convocation. Nancy Greer-Williams volunteered.

The Chair stated that the search for a university ombudsman is complete. She also stated that the GSAC dinner with Dr. Floyd was fruitful. Many substantive

concerns were brought to his attention by the representatives in attendance at the dinner. A photograph of the dinner party was passed among representatives.

The Chair informed representatives that she would be attending a meeting of the National Association of Graduate Students (NAGPS) in February in order to resolve some "political" issues of the association for which she serves as a board member. She also informed the forum that she would be meeting with representatives of the Campus Activities Board (CAB) in January in order to address the portion of the graduate student assessment fee that is allocated to them. GSAC is attempting to have some of the money funneled to the Western Student Association (WSA) and the rest directed towards funding events of interest to graduate students.

Concerning the Committee on General Education, the Chair read a letter stating that the committee saw no reason to have a graduate student representative on the committee. The GSAC forum recommended that the Chair inquire into this rationale and stress GSAC's interest in representation.

The Chair announced that she and a couple of other representatives would be interviewed by the Kalamazoo Gazette about the nature of graduate school at Western Michigan University.

Finally, the Chair sought volunteers for the McNair Program, and she announced the availability of a graduate associateship in the Department of Multi-Cultural Affairs.

V. UNIVERSITY COUNCILS

Research Policy Council (Rodger Zanny and Kurt Hayden):

Zanny distributed a brochure about Research and Creative Activity grants. He announced that multi-year (three years) doctoral associateships were being considered by the Council. Hayden announced that the Council is trying to increase the number of doctoral associateships issued per year. Western has roughly 130 associateships campus wide. Toledo University has 600 in engineering alone.

Graduate Studies Council (Doris Dirks):

The Chair reported that the Ph.D. program in Health and Human Services was given a positive evaluation. Approval of the program now goes before the Faculty Senate.

VI. GSAC SUB-COMMITTEES

Graduate Financial Allocation Committee (Jay Cawthorne):

Cawthorne reported that GFAC rules were discussed at the January 5 meeting. Recommendations to GSAC in this respect would be forthcoming.

Public Relations Committee (Nancy Greer-Williams):

Greer-Williams announced that the committee would meet on Thursday, February 1, 2001 at 2:00 PM in conference room A of Siebert Administration Building. The Harry Brod lecture, Gradients, and the new GSAC brochure would be discussed.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

On behalf of the Office of the Vice President for Research and the Graduate College, Paula Boodt announced a panel discussion entitled "Intellectual Property Policy: How it Impacts You" on Wednesday, January 31, 2001 from 4-5 PM in 1062 Kohrman Hall.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m..