

## Graduate Student Advisory Committee

### Meeting Minutes

Connable Board Room, The Bernhard Center

05-09-06

**Representatives Present:** Todd Ide (chair), Kelly Daniels (vice chair), Toni Strutz (Social Work), Jan Miller (Social Work), 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), Nuria Ibanez (Spanish), Jason Nuzzo (Performing Arts Admin), Manik Kapoor (Mechanical Engineering)

**Guests:** Kevin Vichcales (Graduate College), Rosana Abu Alsaud (Finance), Eric Gato (Chemistry)

1. Call to order: 4:00
2. Introductions
3. Approval of Minutes: Kazu's name misspelled. Corrections agreed upon. Moved by Marcel, seconded by Brad
4. Report from the Dr. Lewis Pyenson, Graduate College Dean: not present
5. Report from Dr. Kevin Vichcales:
  - Healthcare is moving forward with the Chickering Group, a large step forward, better provider, better package, for nominally more cost. Also, we should have an online enrollment for appointees. Annual exams covered, vision plan, RX coverage, no dental at this stage.
  - Meeting with the President: All appointments will be adhered to through 06/07. Budget will be administered much earlier than before, which will help all facets of university work.
  - Discussion about the Grad Program Review
6. Report from the Chair: Grad Program Review: see enclosed attachment. Marcel attended the meeting. Says much anger has been expressed. Faculty Senate were not allowed to respond during their own meeting. GSAC, as a member of the Faculty Senate, should oppose the administration, says Marcel. Todd mentions the cuts in programs serving working teachers. Yet they create programs that departments do not want. GSAC should be on board with any protests. Kevin: watch the news, read the editorials, endorses Marcel's position. Doris: the traditional process has been circumvented toward a more corporate model, for better or worse. More discussion later

End of Semester BBQ Report: it was fun. Food left over

Dinner with Bailey: will inquire about rescheduling

Board of Trustees Report: Todd shared complaints, to some cheers

7. GSAC Sub-Committees and University Councils
  - a. Web Committee – Kelly Daniels: website functioning. Aesthetic concerns to be addressed over the summer.
  - b. Public Relations – Toni Strutz: no report
  - c. Graduate Research Symposium and Journal – Chris Jones (not present): Todd: close to completion. We should use GSAC money to offer research grants to grad students.
  - d. University Councils**
    - i. Research Policies Council (2) – Chris Jones & Adam Milewski: not present. RPC did not meet, so that all could attend Faculty Senate

- ii. Graduate Studies Council (2) – Toni Strutz & Todd Ide: Kevin: long report from Ron Davis concerning program review, emerging criteria—not enough faculty, not enough appointments. Council wondered what criteria should emerge as the process moved on.
- iii. Campus Planning and Finance Council (1) – Brad Salisbury: did not meet. May 19<sup>th</sup>, the Council will meet with focus groups concerning Miller Plaza. If any want to participate, ask Brad
- iv. Assessment - Kelly Daniels: did not meet
- v. International Education Council (1) – Kinfu Adisu: presentation by Study Abroad Program. WMU students well rated nationally in this area. Yet international student enrollment is low.
- e. GFAC – Kelly Daniels
  - i. Proposals: no proposals. But Eric Gato attended to discuss last month’s tabled proposal for “A Career Building Workshop for Scientists.” Kevin has question about advertising. Kazu asks about facilities. Brad asks if the consultant will actually help all scientists. Moved by Kelly, seconded by Kazu. Motion carries for \$1,995
    - f. MLK Committee – Doris Dirks: our discrimination policy has recently changed to include gender identity—we are the first four year public school to make such a change
    - g. CAB representative –
    - h. WSA representative –
- 8. Old and Continuing Business
  - a. Chair Search Committee Report and Approval of Recommendation – Doris: Committee met several times. Interviewed six candidates. Recommended Rosana. General discussion. Brad moves, Marcel seconds. Motion carries. Long live Rosana!
- 9. New Business
  - a. Replacements on Councils and Committees (Graduate Studies, Campus Planning, International Education, Public Relations)
- 10. General Announcements & Briefs
  - b. Unionization – Keith Russo and Jason Olson: not present
  - c. Announcements for the Good of the Order: Doris: our Nobel Laureate could not make it because of civil unrest in East Timor. Greek Fest is coming 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Pride Art Hop coming. Race for the Cure (Breast Cancer), on 20<sup>th</sup>, Arcadia Festival. Girls on the Run coming up. Ultimate Frisbee summer league. Contact Doris for any details. Kelly Davidson: Art Department offers color printing with cost center funds.
    - d. Next GFAC meeting(s) – June 9th
    - e. Next GSAC meeting(s) – June 9th
- 11. General Discussion “The State of Graduate Schools”
- 12. Adjourn: 5:40