

**MINUTES
OF
GRADUATE COLLEGE SPRING FACULTY MEETING
April 03, 2014**

ATTENDANCE

Approximately 40 Graduate Faculty attended the meeting.

WELCOME (Interim Dean Forehand)

Meeting Called to Order at 4:05 by Cynthia Forehand, Interim Dean of the Graduate College.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Interim Dean Forehand)

November 18, 2013 Minutes reviewed. Motions to approve Minutes made. No edits presented. November 18, 2013 Minutes APPROVED.

PROVOST'S REMARKS (Provost Rosowsky)

Graduate College Update. Search is ongoing for permanent Dean of the Graduate College. Results of Faculty Report and Provost both concur that the Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate College are distinct positions and need to be distinct for future plans. The growth of the Graduate College not exclusively a Research issue and the Research enterprise not exclusively a Graduate issue. UVM is committed to having a Graduate College. Responsibilities for these positions will be morphing with the move into IBB.

STEM Complex. Approval to move into the next stage of the design process was given at recent Board Meeting. Next stage in the process will be presentation of the summary of the space planning exercise (covering 2 new buildings and one renovated building). Following that will be the presentation of the next level of design drawings and funding will be requested to proceed to the next design phase - the final design phase. Construction expected to commence in about a year. Active funding continues.

Other Capital Projects. Fletcher Allen and Residence Life.

Montpelier and the 40% Rule. Referencing President Sullivan's Strategic Plan, we want to stand as offering the best quality academic programs that make us as successful as possible. Currently - because of the 40% statute - we can't charge more than 40% of what is charged to out-of-state students for in-state students. The issue is that UVM can't create new and innovative and compelling graduate programs that are attractive to graduate students without dropping the price for out-of-state students. But, if the price for out-of-state students is dropped, then price for Vermont students has to be dropped too - thus creating a vicious cycle where the program(s) can't be paid for. The margin is outside Vermont so need to create a price point for graduate programs that is attractive for out-of-state students.

Request is for a variance of 40% for distance and graduate education. Intent of 40% variance is to be able to offer graduate programs, such as professional masters, at a price point that is competitive with other universities.

Question & Concerns Addressed by Provost Rosowsky

Topics Discussed: Legislator's Response to 40% Variance / Recruiting Resources / Impact on Programs re: 40% Rule / Who is Making the Decisions / IBB / Inter-Disciplinary Programs / STEM Initiatives / Interface Between Interdisciplinary Programs and other More Traditional Programs and Possibility of Reducing Resources, and / Cost of STEM Complex.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO CONSTITUTION (Article II / Section F / 2(c)) / (Interim Dean Forehand)

Discussion: "What are your purposes or responsibilities as a graduate faculty member?"

This was flagged because question arose as to whether you needed to be a member of the Graduate Faculty to be an Advisor for a Master's student. The Constitution states when a Master's Thesis comes for defense that the Chair of that Committee must be a member of the Graduate Faculty, and at least one other person on that Thesis Defense Committee must be a member of the Graduate Faculty, but doesn't actually state that the Advisor must be. Graduate Executive Committee discussed and recommended a change to the Constitution to indicate that a Faculty Member needs to be a member of the Graduate Faculty in order to be the Primary Advisor of a Master's student.

Formerly stated: "primary advisor for a doctoral dissertation."

Recommended revision (Article II, Section F, Paragraph 2(c):

"c. shall be the primary advisor for a master's thesis or a doctoral dissertation."

Revision above was opened for discussion.

MOTION WAS MADE to approve the revision to add master's thesis as noted above, and, in addition, appropriately address any faculty currently on committees who don't meet requirement. MOTION WAS SECONDED. None OPPOSED. None ABSTAINED. Motion to update language in Constitution APPROVED.

Question & Concerns Addressed by Cindy Forehand

Topics Discussed: Growth of Graduate College / Loss of Funding Changing Faculty Status from a Research Faculty to a Research affiliate. Not eligible for Graduate Faculty Status.

One must be a member of the Faculty in order to be a member of the Graduate Faculty.

It was noted this warranted further discussion.

ADMISSIONS REPORT (Interim Dean Forehand & Ralph Swenson)

Interim Dean Forehand advised the group that Ralph Swenson will officially be retiring from the Graduate College in June.

Ralph updated the group with a current snapshot of Graduate College Admissions. Graduate College applications are ahead of last year's total at this point. Have almost 2700 applications so far this year. Programs are still coming in.

Question & Concerns Addressed by Ralph Swenson

Topics Discussed: Professional Programs / Changes to Tuition for this Year / Research Opportunities, and / Recording of Applications Data.

IMPACT OF CHANGING 40% RULE (Interim Dean Forehand)

Intent is to be able to bring out-of-state tuition down in specific programs. Not simple – could affect other programs.

Questions & Concerns Addressed by Cindy Forehand

Topics Discussed: Status in the Senate / Tuition Changes / Credits / Retaining Students in Vermont / Graduate Programs / Differences in Quality Programs / Process for Setting Tuition, and / Effects of Tuition Change on Other Programs.

GRADUATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES (Interim Dean Forehand)

Graduate Executive Committee spent considerable time reviewing new Course Action Forms (the good and the bad). Very happy with new forms.

A new accelerated Masters for Food Systems was APPROVED.

A new Masters Concentration for Rubenstein was APPROVED.

A Certificate of Graduate Study in Environmental Public Health was APPROVED.

12 Applications for Graduate Faculty were reviewed.

Graduate College now has new form and policy regarding additional work requests for Graduate Assistants. <http://www.uvm.edu/~gradcoll/pdf/additionalworkapplication.pdf>

Parameters around hiring students well spelled out in the policy.

The Graduate Executive Committee discussed the need to simplify and standardize tuition and scholarships for Graduate students who are supported on extramural funding. The goal is for the tuition scholarships for research students to be the same as graduate teaching assistants or graduate assistants. Have to start with basic definitions: Understanding that it is a federal tax category and that what is given them in tuition scholarship and health insurance premium contributions is considered financial aid and is reported as financial aid

to the federal government. This is separate from the 20 hours per week worked (average hours), which is compensated by the stipend.

Looking at this in IBB sense, important to think about the research piece and ways to generate revenue for the research from external sources.

A benefit rate for the health insurance benefit standardizes how rate is paid in IBB.

Reasoning behind wanting to develop a fringe rate for tuition is to be able to equalize the benefits between graduate teaching assistants and graduate research assistants, and a revenue stream is needed to do this.

Questions & Concerns Addressed by Cindy Forehand

Topics Discussed: Paying for Research Credits / Mechanism to Pay Tuition / Assigning Fewer Credits / Revenues / IBB Budget / Fringe Change for this Year not an Option / Support for Inter-Disciplinary Programs, and / Clarifying Credits for Half Time & Full Time.

Bottom Line – Can't continue to treat GTA and GRA students differently. GRAs should have the same financial aid package as GTAs.

Did not get consensus on a mechanism to charge tuition to grants this year. The Graduate Executive Committee has a motion to form a Committee to come to consensus on this. Did get consensus on the health insurance benefit rate.

Graduate Executive Committee had a motion that all students only get 9 credits (instead of 12) and that money could then be used to cover the course credits for the research students. Research credits are going to be changed from 10 to 9.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business addressed.

ADJOURN

The meeting concluded at 5:40 PM.