

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL FOR GRADUATE STUDIES

MINUTES, Meeting 376

1 February 2008

2:00 p.m., 177B Administration Building

PRESENT: L. Bennett (CAS), R. Cox (ESCI), C. Danehower (FCBE), A. Istvan (GSA), R. Koch (NURS), C. Langstraat (ACCT), M. Logan (CCFA, proxy L. Bennett), C. Menifield (PADM), D. Patterson (JDST), H. Perkins (ICL), E. Perry (Faculty Senate), E. Rakow (COE), S. Slack (ENGR), N. Wallace (ART), L. Weiss (HSS), C. Williams (ENTH, proxy S. Slack); K. Weddle-West (VPGS),

ABSENT: D. Arant (UNIV), L. Schranze (MUSIC), D. Sherrell (MKTG), D. Wark (AUSP), J. Brownlee (Graduate School), B. Park (Libraries)

GUESTS: Richard Ranta, Dean, College of Communication and Fine Arts

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 pm when a quorum was achieved.

376.1. Approval of Minutes of Meetings 375 and 375A, 7 and 13 December 2007. L. Bennett moved (2/E. Rakow) that the minutes of the two December meetings be approved. The motion was carried by voice vote.

376.2 Announcements

376.2.1 New GSA president: K. Weddle-West introduced Alesha Istvan, who has replaced Erica Watson, who had to take a semester off due to surgery, as the new president of the Graduate Student Association. The Women's Studies student is the former vice president, so she brings plenty of experience to the position. The GSA was instrumental in instituting the Graduate Student Orientation, Graduate Education Week in Tennessee, and the induction ceremony for doctoral students; it drives development of policies to serve graduate students. The president of the GSA holds a graduate assistantship.

376.2.2 GSA leadership council members needed from Education, Engineering, Audiology, and Nursing. The main ongoing work of the GSA is reviewing travel requests; it meets once a month for an hour. Please suggest names of possible representatives to Alesha; the next meeting is on 15 February. Alesha reported that she had a good response from the email she sent to all graduate students earlier this semester.

376.3 Discussion Items

376.3.1 PhD Time to Degree: Time to Degree (TTD) is a major factor in students' decision where to go for graduate study. ABDs, especially in the humanities, are increasing. Dr. Weddle-West called members' attention to Harvard's very successful approach to the problem (*How to Cut PhD Time to Degree*. Retrieved January 8, 2008, from Inside Higher Ed Web site: www.insidehighered.com/layout/set/print/news/2007/12/17/phd). She suggested it might be a good impetus for programs where students are not working in faculty labs. There were a number of comments: need to distinguish between full-time, supported doctoral students and part-time, unsupported, ones; programs should contemplate only accepting students in areas of faculty interest; coursework in the humanities is somewhat divorced from dissertation research; data is needed on TTD by program and should be distributed at Deans Council meetings and perhaps posted on the Provost's website. It was pointed out that our high part-time rate makes it hard to determine true TTD. The University also ought to investigate ways to self-report students who have left the program; there is no such process now. The purpose of this discussion is to raise awareness of how critical this is, to consider best practices across the disciplines, and to think about individually tailored responses to address the problem. C. Danehower moved (2/C.Menifield) that the Office of Institutional Research collect TTD and graduation rates annually, synchronize them with program review, and disseminate the data to the University Council. The motion was carried by voice vote.

376.3.2 "Making the Implicit Explicit" by Barbara E. Lovitts (handout - chapter 3): This related publication explores some best practices.

376.3.3 Release of National Research Council Assessment of Doctoral Programs: Dr. Weddle-West took Council members through this PowerPoint presentation released by the NRC. She concluded by asking for graduate exemplars and program highlights (not necessarily nationally known) to maximize our profile.

376.4 Old Business

376.4.1 Tabled courses from December: L. Bennett presented updates on these three courses.

- PADM 7643 Seminar in Nonprofit Administration and Philanthropy (was 6227). Syllabi for both levels, showing stronger requirements for 7643, were presented. PADM 6227 has been closed out as of summer

2008. C. Menifield moved (2/E. Rakow) that the new course be approved. The motion was carried by voice vote.

- PUBH 7150, Biostatistics I, and PUBH 7170, Epidemiology in Public Health: L. Bennett explained that there had been two major meetings with E. Rakow and other faculty, at which the syllabi for both courses were revised to clearly focus on public health. L. Weiss moved (2/E. Rakow) that both courses be approved. The motion was carried by voice vote.

376.5 New Business

376.5.1 Artist Diploma proposal: this proposal was tabled.

376.5.2 Department of Architecture proposal: Dean R. Ranta introduced this proposal, explaining that a separate department of architecture that includes interior design is a requirement of the accrediting agency. Since it takes two years to earn the MArch, they expect the program will be accredited by 2011, when there will be a site visit. E. Rakow moved (2/L. Bennett) that the proposal be approved; the motion was carried by voice vote.

376.5.3 Review hours required for dissertation: Dr. Weddle-West stressed the need for everybody to talk to their colleagues about the minimum number of hours required for the dissertation, although this is largely a task for the college directors. An earlier poll had suggested at least 6 hours; it was noted that 9 hours is a full load. Dr. Weddle-West asked for a motion for the March meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nancy Hurley, MA.