

Graduate Administrators Council

Koch Hall Administration Building

Thursday, April 2, 2009

9:00-10:30 a.m.

Attending: Phil Langlais, chair, Brenda Neuman Lewis, Bill Hain, Greg Edinger, Ed Con, Mike O'Mara, Bonnie Van Lunen, Robert Wojtowicz, Ted Remley, Isao Ishibashi, Osman Awan, Al Awad, Steven Stevenson-Marshall, Yin Xu

Approval of March 19, 2009 Minutes

Minutes approved without changes

Updates/Announcements

Dr. Phil Langlais announced that worksheets for the BLDMS system are underway and several users have not completed or signed up for a training session. Dr. Langlais requested the associate deans inform their GPDs to take one of the BLDMS training workshops. Responses for additional workshops are due and any specific questions about the worksheets should be posed to Steve Risden, Director of International Admissions.

Dr. Langlais distributed the CGS consultant report to Council. He stated the report had been distributed at last week's Provost Council meeting and that the deans had already rejected the consultant's recommendation that ODU have one centralized graduate school/college. He indicated that the deans and provost prefer a decentralized model in which each college has its own interrelated graduate school. The provost is planning a report on his numerous suggestions. Dr. Laure Garzon asked what interrelated graduate college means? Dr. Brenda Neuman Lewis, who was at the last Provost Council, responded that it meant each college would be responsible for its own separate graduate programs.

Dr. Langlais distributed the SFM Steering Committee Recommendations. He reported that the SFM Steering Committee had deferred its decision regarding the recommendations on graduate studies until after the CGS Consultant Report was received. At last week's meeting with the chairs of the SFM sub-committee Dr. Langlais shared the Provost Council's decisions and suggested that Alice McArdy, associate vice president, coordinate the implementation of the CGS report and the Provost Council's recommendations with the provost.

Dr. Langlais distributed the recommendations of the SFM Graduate Committee regarding the assessment of quality and viability of graduate programs and the need to establish strategic priorities. Dr. Langlais reported that the SFM Graduate Committee requested that the Provost and academic deans use the metrics provided in its recommendations to guide allocation of resources and enrollment targets.

Dr. Langlais reported that approval of the ODU Office of Graduate Studies' Mission/Message Statement and Goals/Objectives has been put on hold until the Provost and academic deans meet to review the ODU Office of Graduate Studies.

Graduate Recruitment Policy

Council reviewed the recruitment statement. Marshall and Steve suggested changes to the statement and should be reflected in the statement and suggested adding a "talent pool" in numbers 1 and 2 of the statement. Dr. Ali Ardalan suggested removing the phrase "talent pool" because diversity should not be related to the talent pool. The decision was made that the statement should be representative of graduate students and faculty at ODU and that "talent pool" would be

removed. Council agreed that this new statement should appear in the graduate catalog and the mission statement. Dr. Osgood expressed concern about including the CGS website URL in the statement because it would change over time. Dr. Osgood has recommended that we create a current CGS statement in a pdf file, provide the proper attribution to CGS and CGS, and incorporate it into the current statement. Council unanimously approved that suggestion and the following statement:

Old Dominion University's Inclusiveness Statement

Old Dominion University is committed to the advancement of students and staff who are diverse in background, experience and diversity. Our first priority is the provision of the highest standards of academic excellence and the best possible experience possible. We recognize and value the contributions of all individuals and encourage applications from all individuals, including those from underserved populations.

In particular, we embrace the principles that:

1. A diverse graduate student body, faculty and staff is in the best interests of our nation;
2. A diverse student body and staff enhances and respects for diverse opinions and intellectual exploration, regardless of the nature of that academic knowledge;
3. Our graduates will thrive in a diverse environment; fostering that inclusiveness in graduate education promotes the greatest ultimate success.

Old Dominion University's inclusiveness statement is available on the website of the Council of Graduate Studies, <http://www.usgnet.org>.

Updates from 2008-09 Sub Committees

a. University Thesis/Dissertation

Dr. Robert W. Worowicz reported that the final draft of the report will be presented at the meeting.

b. GTA Institute (Criteria for Evaluation of Graduate Programs and Recommendations for Continuation/Financing)

Dr. Ardalan reported that he is still researching and will have a report at the next GTA meeting.

Candidacy Requirements

Dr. Ted Remley raised several questions regarding the mission statement and what happens if a student who is not able to register for one credit. Dr. Milojkovic stated that a student is then able to register for one credit. Dr. Milojkovic also stated that the mission statement is in effect to provide career advantages for ABD students. Dr. Remley then asked what an appropriate dissertation proposal is. Council agreed that the proposal should be a research proposal. Council also agreed that the mission statement in the current graduate catalog stating that it was a research proposal. Council also agreed that students should finish their proposals before the completion of their

course work. Further discussion re-enforced that all advanced level candidate requirements are uniform across the University, but ARI and certain students are exempt.

Continued Discussion on Continuous Enrollment Policy

There was a lengthy discussion on the issue of the continuous enrollment policy. Dr. Wojtowicz began by stating his position that it is unnecessary for students to pay tuition during the summer and that much of the students are required to do so. Some of the issues that were raised were faculty not on site during the summer and working with the pay, if all students complete their degrees in a timely fashion, the end of the academic year and the implications of funding the policy. Dr. Bonnie Van Lunen asked if students will have access to resources such as labs during the summer. Council agreed that a student should have access to university resources during the summer if they are not enrolled.

Dr. Garzon suggests that the CFP can make more progress in the summer. Neumon Lewis stated that there is a need for a continuous enrollment policy for students who are not enrolled. Dr. Ardalan recommended strict enforcement and a policy that would require a student who has received an exception and sends just one e-mail to a faculty member for information, advice, etc., would immediately be charged with a full term of enrollment. A discussion of the impact of such a policy was suggested. Dr. Ardalan suggested a decision to go forward with this policy should not depend on a financial impact analysis. Council will continue the discussion at an executive session at the next meeting of GAC.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:30 a.m.