

**Minutes
Of
February 29, 2012
Graduate College Faculty Meeting**

Dean Grasso welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for being there. He noted that Provost Knodell would be arriving shortly and that he would begin and she could take over once she was there.

The minutes of the fall 2011 meeting were **approved**.

Dean Grasso explained to the group that the graduate college would be forming a new larger program that would merge programs in the biomedical sciences of the medical school, with the cell and molecular biology program in the graduate school to form one program now being referred to as Cell, Molecular, and Biomedical Sciences. An M.S. food systems program was also approved, and students will begin to be accepted right away. He also noted that last May was when the Ph.D. program in Bioengineering was approved and that this May they would be graduating their first Ph.D. Bioengineering student. Two candidates will be on campus in the following week to interview for Director of the Office of Technology Commercialization which would be a full time on campus position. John Evans is heading the search for the candidates. Dean Grasso noted that they were also working with foundation president Rich Bundy trying to jointly hire a Development Officer to work with the Graduate College around alumni relations and corporate and foundation awards and funding. Dean Grasso turned the floor over to Cindy Forehand.

Dr. Forehand noted that she would be giving updates on administrative changes that would be going on. Talked about continuous registration (GRAD901, 902, 903) as far as tracking student effort goes and how that goes into who is a full time/part time student and how that differs between programs throughout the university and wanting to standardize it. Policy approved in the graduate college that would state that full time status was set at 9 credits, and half time would be 5 credits. This affects GRAD901, 902, and 903 because they were set up as 6 credit courses and need to be reworked. Provost Knodell then entered and Dr. Forehand gave her the floor.

Provost Jane Knodell took the floor and spoke first about the Strategic Initiative Project. She noted that faculty would soon be receiving emails about six different investment proposals. The six different proposals were

1. Establishment of Institutional Grant Programs
2. Creation of Faculty Reserve Accounts
3. Evaluation and Expansion of Shared Resources
4. Health Services Research
5. Expansion of Graduate Programs
6. Investment in the Future Spires

Someone asked how we would determine how many of the proposals would be funded to which Provost Knodell replied that it would depend on the amount of resources they are able to generate through cost savings and net revenue enhancement. She noted that they hoped to gain around 20 million dollars in these types of resources. She also noted that it would take some balancing to see which of the proposals were most worth investing in at this time and which would be most beneficial to the university. Jane also talked about the development of a methodology which would include assessing the strategic value of different academic programs at the university, including financial impact defined in terms of instructional revenues and expenses. She noted that the Graduate Executive Committee was also working on creating a methodology that would look specifically at the graduate college. There was discussion back and forth between members of the group about problems with how the methodology was calculated, where money was going, which departments were benefiting, etc. and it was noted that all of this would be talked about

at a later date, most likely within the graduate college. Provost Knodell noted that in total there are about 1.5 billion dollars' worth of initiatives/proposals/ideas, but all in all there will only be about 500 million dollars earned by the campaign to work with. Jane Knodell finished off by noting that the new president was extremely interested in the expansion of the graduate college and would love to take steps toward becoming one of the nation's premier small research institutions. She noted that they would be looking into other premier small research institutions to see what the proper steps would be to start UVM heading in this direction. Questions were asked about what a few good examples of current schools were and Provost Knodell handed the question to Dean Grasso noting that he had his favorites which included Dartmouth, Tufts, and Brown. Dean Grasso noted that one thing that will help us achieve this is increasing the amount of external funding available to our graduate students. Provost Knodell noted that she had no further notes to talk about and handed the floor back to Cindy Forehand.

Dr. Forehand began discussing continuous registration again. She noted that, going back to the continuous registration portion she noted that over a hundred years ago a 100 dollar fee was tagged on to the continuous registration courses and had never been revised since then. She explained that now that there were going to be different levels of continuous registration that would vary between half time and full time that the fee that goes along with the courses would also need to be reworked to better fit each one individually based on how much time the students are spending on campus and in our laboratories. It was reworked so that the \$100 fee would remain for GRAD901, it would be raised to \$200 for GRAD902, and \$300 for GRAD903. She also talked about how for a while things such as Language Proficiency Exams, Comprehensive Exams, Thesis Defenses, etc. were counted as courses however now all of those are going to be going away because banner is capable of calculating them/ keeping track of them in a way that makes it possible for the credit/effort to be accurately reported on your transcript without needing them to be specific courses that look like they are something being "taught". Lastly, the graduate executive has discussed mini programs which make it possible for their students to remain generally funded throughout their entire career rather than turning to grant funding at some point. She notes that they need to make it the norm to go from general funding to grant funding and they are trying to recommend a 3 year limit to stay on general funding. She noted that an email would be sent to them all once these things have been approved.

Associate VP Ruth Farrell took the floor to talk about PIVOT, one of the new resources available to the university. PIVOT is something that takes information from the funding information databases and marries it with the faculty profile database and allows you to do both funding matches and collaborator matches at the same time. There are over 3 million scholar profiles within the database. Software that can help identify collaborators, groups of collaborators, as well as allows you to share funding information through it. We are now subscribed to a one year trial with this program so Ruth will be looking for feedback. She noted that there would be a couple of workshops dealing with this program that would help teach people how to use the resource as well as work with and manage their own profiles within the database at large. The second thing that Ruth noted is that sponsored project administration is now finally caught up in the award setup. At the end of Ruth's notes Dean Grasso encouraged people to really use the new PIVOT program while it was available to them at a reduced rate and to supply feedback as to whether or not this would be a valuable program that we should hang on to.

Dean Grasso noted that the official Graduate Faculty meeting is closed, and that for anyone who wants to stay they will now be having a discussion dealing with tuition on grants.