

**Minutes of the November 1, 2010 Graduate Faculty Meeting
Monday, 3:30 – 4:30pm, Memorial Lounge, UVM**

Dean Domenico Grasso called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.. He began by announcing that President Fogel and Provost Knodell will attend the next graduate faculty meeting (2/28/11). The minutes from the last meeting (4/5/10) were approved.

Dean Grasso talked about how graduation for graduate students was conducted in the past, a ceremony led by the Dean of the Graduate College and President in which graduates were hooded, but diplomas were not conferred. Since the graduates are enrolled in the Graduate College, and more of them show up at the graduate ceremony than the other ceremonies, diplomas will be awarded at the graduate ceremony beginning this year. This is the way it is done at many other universities in the United States. A question was raised about master's students, and Dean Grasso confirmed they would be included in the new process, as well. Dean Grasso asked the faculty to forward any suggestions or ideas for a commencement speaker.

Dean Grasso discussed the NRC (National Research Council) "C" rankings and Times Higher Education supplement rankings. He noted that they will be helpful to us in considering our graduate programs. He also mentioned that the criteria for revising our academic program reviews will be informed by these rankings. One of the more important items in the rankings is citations, a measure of how our work is being perceived by others across the field. UVM offers 19 research doctorates, 3 non-research doctorates: the EdD, DPT, and MD. Of the 19, 11 were eligible for ranking in the NRC report. To be ranked you had to graduate 1 PhD student per year for 5 years. Our highest ranked program was Civil and Environmental Engineering.

Dean Grasso spoke about his visits to various departments on campus, to help him determine how to best support them as productive scholars and researchers. Some items that have resulted from these meetings are: revising the IRB process and safety issues around Cook building, especially in the Chemistry labs. He touched on the October Board meeting where three Spire presentations were made, all well received. Dean Grasso talked about an OTC (Office of Technology Transfer) external review. The reviewer, from the University of Colorado, will look at how we are running our operation and will follow up with his recommendations. Dean Grasso finally mentioned that since graduate education issues and research policies are inextricably linked, he will sometimes report on topics related to research, in addition to those related to graduate programs and curricula. Following these remarks, he passed the floor to Associate Vice President Ruth Farrell.

Assoc. VP Farrell talked about the initiative underway to integrate the Office of Sponsored Programs and Grant and Contract Accounting Office, distributing a handout titled, "Pre-Award/Post-Award Integration" (pg. 4). The initiative has included the various offices and

stakeholders involved in the grants management process. To date, they have analyzed the current state of affairs, and identified their ultimate goals, where they want to organization to be. Recommendations will be made at the end of the month. She invited people to write in with issues they judge to be important and factors to be taken into consideration, and then opened the floor to questions. Responding to the question, what would be different after integration, Assoc. VP Farrell responded that the biggest change will be one stop shopping. Further comments were made by faculty regarding issues encountered with the old OSP/GCA process.

Associate Dean of the Graduate College, Cindy Forehand, then reported on graduate education matters. She said that a major activity of the Graduate Executive Committee will be the program review process. The Faculty Senate recently finished its first cycle of academic program reviews (APR) and is now in the process of revising the APR documents, determining how to move forward for the next cycle. The graduate piece of the review process needs to be strengthened, and this is an opportune time, as it follows the NRC rankings and we can build upon their metrics. What data should the Faculty Senate review, for example, time to graduation, support for students, student experience? She welcomed input on this matter. Associate Dean Forehand also mentioned student support, in all of its varied forms, as another important issue to be addressed over the entire academic year. Several comments were made from the faculty on this topic, raising various issues to be considered and suggesting changes needing to be made.

Dean Grasso commented that the Provost is developing a separate process, outside of APR, that will look at data on how many graduates are graduating from programs. In response to a question, he noted that the administration is dedicated to improving UVM's graduate programs. Dean Grasso continued, talking about meeting with each individual trustee for informational purposes and to help them appreciate the important role of graduate education and research on campus. The intellectual density of UVM, i.e. the number of doctoral students relative to undergraduates, is low compared to many other institutions. For example, institutions like Cal Tech, which has a very high intellectual density, provide a very different experience for both graduate and undergraduate students. In response to a question about the commitment to change the intellectual density at UVM, Dean Grasso said that it is very strong, but we will have to be creative given the constraints we face.

Professor Rae Nishi returned to the question of student support, raising a number of specific issues that present obstacles for students and departments, and commenting that many other universities follow different and, in many cases, more transparent, simpler, policies that encourage graduate student funding. Associate Dean Forehand noted that the university business council (UBC) is currently looking at streamlining the graduate student funding workflow. Consideration of matters of graduate student support will take a full year, in order to understand all of the components and how they interface with various UVM administrative systems.

Lisa Aultman-Hall expressed excitement about the topics presented and discussed by Associate VP Farrell and Associate Dean Forehand, and about their abilities to move things forward, but also voiced concern for faculty involvement, noting the low attendance at the meeting, the barren room. With the overwhelming influx of emails everyone receives, Director Aultman-Hall suggested that a specific plan to engage the graduate faculty is needed. Associate Dean Forehand said that her point was well taken. The Faculty Senate, its RSGE Committee, and Graduate Executive committees are all engaged. They are large groups and represent most units on campus, but they also need to get their faculty engaged. Dean Grasso commented that he has organized a monthly reception for and conversation with the University Scholars to facilitate broad information and idea exchange. Hopefully, they will take some of this discussion and resulting ideas back to their departments, units, and colleagues across campus.

Dean Grasso spoke about the TRI steering committees, now up and running, and to be charged shortly. A full day Food Systems symposium at the Davis center is planned, the Neuroscience spire is putting together a COBRA application, and Complex systems is developing an IGERT application. All three spires are moving forward, they are comprised of very well qualified people from throughout the campus, it is a very exciting time.

The floor was opened for new business and, there being none, the meeting was adjourned at 4:29 p.m. by Dean Grasso.

OSP/GCA Integration



Worked with Leadership to

- Create the design team
- Create the vision
- Prepare for the kick off
- Identify teams, team leaders, mandates
- Train team leaders

Work Teams

- Identifying current state
- Identifying future state
- Identifying gaps and redundancies
- Making recommendations

Transition

- Implement recommendations that are early wins
- Planning: create transition teams, critical path analysis, resource assessment, implementation plan for remaining recommendations
- Move to new reporting structure

Moving forward

- Continue recommendation implementation

December and January

- Refine recommendations

