

Minutes

Graduate Faculty meeting

November 9, 2011

3:30-4:30

Memorial Lounge, Waterman Building

The fall semester graduate faculty meeting was called to order by Dean Grasso at 3:35. The meeting was attended by approximately 35 people.

Review/approve minutes (Nov. 1, 2010 and Feb. 28, 2011)

Both sets of minutes were approved. Motion made by D. Dummit

Dean Grasso introduced Interim President Bramley.

President Bramley noted that UVM is the only doctoral granting institution in Vermont and a strong element in why the Governor made his remarks yesterday (Nov. 8). This correlates with the recent UVM strategic initiatives.

Bramley noted that UVM has been an instrument of the state in a sense for over fifty years. There was no state college system, or VSAC in 1957. The driver was access and affordability of college for Vermonters. The state appropriation was supposed to cover extension, medicine and a tuition discount for Vermonters.

He also noted that In July and August he started having conversations with the Governor and BOT about the distinctiveness of UVM, which is really about graduate education, research and the creative endeavors. That is what sets us apart from other higher ed institutes in Vermont. Another issue is that there are only so many Vermonters who attend college and the number is dwindling. In 2009 about 7K graduated HS and 3200 went to college. That is among the lowest total in the nation. About half of those go out of state, half in state. About 600 go to UVM. We need to be strategic about how we spend the money we do spend. We need an approach in which the state is clear about their expectations of us and their expectations are consistent with reality. This gives us the opportunity to talk about our distinctiveness.

The governor has set up a small group to look at this and make recommendations by July – to the new UVM president and the governor. President Bramley was hopeful that for the first time in a long time we can have a thoughtful discussion about this and he believe that the governor gets the value of graduate education and research. He may be overly relying on STEM disciplines and I think it has to be wider spread than that and include the Humanities and Social Sciences. He also talked about TRI and the Spires and he was encouraged by this initiative. He also believes that graduate education and research is being more fully recognized at UVM. His

personal view is that we are probably too large in terms of undergrad population and too small in our graduate population.

President Bramley discussed a trip to BF Goodrich and the SEED program and the value of a program like this and when the governor talks about more strategic use of resources this is what he means. Using financial aid is another one. He questioned why would we give every student from Vermont a 60% discount when they don't all need it.

Industry leaders he has met are hungry to work with us, even though distance can be an impediment. Overall, we just have to free ourselves from the shackles of current models

Lisa Aultman-Hall: Do you think there is recognition now that investing in graduate education and research will result in jobs and companies? JB: I don't think there is yet. But the SIP process will help with that. The world outside understands the value of research in certain areas like health care. Another example is Hurricane Irene – there are Complex Systems aspect to the recovery. I don't think the state is of a mind to simply put 5M into graduate education but they are starting to see the value.

Pres. Bramley: Tech Transfer is critically important, and I have been involved in it myself. We have to do that better than we have been and connect to the outside. It doesn't always come down to dollars but sometimes it does. We invest a pittance in tech transfer.

Lisa Aultman-Hall. So you are saying that the next step is that information and research will serve the state and world by creating new companies. JB: Yes. And we also have to recognize that undergraduate tuition supports research but the balance has been off.

Chris Koliba: I'm curious what your observations are having come back? My read of the research culture is that some believe it, some don't. How do we create a more innovative culture? JB: I wish I had a good answer for that. Having been outside the institution, you shouldn't assume resistance to change is limited to higher ed. Not to be pejorative but change is scary. I think that my biggest fear for UVM is whether we can change and adapt. Some of the things we are doing are on the right path. The added value of graduate education can be demonstrated. Can we demonstrate the added value of undergraduate education as well? Faculty have to think about that metric and not be threatened by it. We can't go on increasing tuition. In 2002 financial aid was 30M. Now it is 80M. This makes no sense to me – raise tuition just to pay for financial aid! Thank you all for the invitation today.

Dean Grasso: I just want to note that it is the correlation of STEM and the humanities/social sciences that will make us successful – a holistic approach.

Updates:

a. Fall enrollments (Ralph Swenson)

Applications were up nearly 10%. Doctoral applications were up 16%. Biggest increases were in Accountancy, Physical Therapy, and History. The increase in History is great news as it runs counter to general trends in the humanities.

Over the past ten years enrollment has increased significantly in all areas of study except humanities and social sciences. Also, we are approaching 50/50 in-state/out-of-state student ratio from 60/40 in-state/out-of-state. We believe that it is due to the growth in PhD programs and selected professional programs.

International enrollment is down a bit from our high mark of a few years ago. It is up over the past ten years but has been generally level lately. We believe this is due to the fact that there is more competition for international students not only within the US but from around the world

ALANA numbers are up over the last ten years but stable from last year.

b. Program review status (Cindy Forehand)

We are planning to look at performance metrics for all of our graduate programs this year, but will focus more attention on those programs that may not be meeting the Provost's recent measurement criteria for program viability. According to this initiative, programs that graduated less than two doctoral students or less than five master's students on average over the last three years will be reviewed for viability. More than half of our graduate programs do not meet the minimum criteria.

c. Internationalization (Cindy)

This is a big conversation at UVM these days and the graduate college is involved in the conversations. It is assumed that some students will be attracted to professional programs that are not research based. International students make up 10% of graduate population, which is lower than we'd like.

d. Policy change updates (Cindy)

Thanks for everyone who helped with the Grad 900 changes, it was complicated but very important. We are also looking seriously at how we can spend our money more wisely so we are looking at policy on research

grants and tuition. We also need to make sure all students are progressing and in good academic standing. We will work with the Registrar's office to make it easier for all of us to track students.

GRASSO UPDATES:

Upcoming faculty forums: Dean Grasso noted that there are going to be forums in the spring – one on research and one on graduate education. What can we improve and what opportunities might we have to enhance these areas. We are looking for constructive input.

Collegiate Scholars program – this is something Grasso has suggested to all the deans this year. Like we have university scholars, we would have collegiate scholars. The graduate college would pay for half of the award. Several deans have jumped on this opportunity, but some already have this in their college. Ask your dean if they are participating.

Philanthropic Priorities – UVM is starting a capital campaign so if you have thoughts on philanthropic opportunities send them to Dan Harvey. We do have assistantships and professorships on the list already.

SIP update - Grasso listed the five SIP areas and noted that on November 18 there is a meeting to share the work that has been done to date.

Dave Dummit noted that the Graduate College reports to the Faculty Senate that list all of the graduating students include the inappropriate language “in course” – this was removed at one time and has somehow found its way back. It needs to be removed.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:33

Submitted by D. Harvey