

Minutes  
Graduate College Faculty Meeting  
November 14, 2012

The Minutes of the spring meeting were approved as written.

Dean Grasso introduced Kelly Swindlehurst as the Graduate Student Senate President.

Dean Grasso then spoke of Distance Education. He stated that Melody Burkins would be devoting 50% of her time to the Graduate College, Distance Education, and the two Program Officers, Mary Anne Sheahan and Jennifer Pigeon, who works in Continuing Education. The first program, a Certificate of Public Health, is scheduled to go online in January. We are waiting for NEASC approval at this time and should hear from them during this month. We will be soliciting proposals for degree online programs. We will try to develop a revenue distribution sharing model to create incentive to create programs online.

Dean Grasso informed the faculty that President Sullivan wants to increase the size of the Graduate College, as one of his top priorities. President Sullivan asked Dean Grasso to start to develop an enrollment management strategy to do this. President Sullivan also intends to decrease the size of the undergraduate population and increase the size of the faculty. There are two ways to think about increasing the size of the Graduate College, one is through revenue generating professional degrees and the other is to increase the size of our research enterprise. Dean Grasso stated that he would be working with Academic Analytics to gauge the productivity of the various components of the faculty and then try to work with Deans and the faculty to identify places where we want to build research strength and trying to support those with faculty hires or additional resources to help them win grants. Dean Grasso stated that federal funds are going to remain flat and therefore, we need to go after larger center grants and going after private funding. He indicated that his office is gearing up for that purpose and is hosting grant writing workshops.

Internationalization – Dean Grasso stated that we are working closely with factions on campus to increase the enrollment as well as the diversification of the Graduate College.

Development Officer – Dean Grasso stated that a full time development officer has been hired for the Graduate College, Peter Sanders. It is the first time that the Graduate College has had a development officer. If you have any alumni contacts that you want to pass on to Peter, please feel free to do so.

Research Protection – Dean Grasso informed the faculty that a review of the entire research protections office is being done. The review will be looking at best practices to help us beware of and be compliant so that we don't have any exposure issues. This will be done in the spring with a firm that will enable us to have a review of our records and they will come here to do a site visit and speak with PIs and speak with our staff and get some feedback so we can be responsive to the PIs and better serve them.

Enrollment – Ralph Swenson, our Admissions Director – stated that we have experienced a 7% drop in enrollment from fall of 2011 to fall of 2012. He said that enrollment fluttered a bit and he started to delve into the reasons. The drop in enrollment was primarily in master's programs. The main reason was that we had a large cohort graduate last spring that was a onetime thing. This brings the number of enrolls for last year larger than this year. We also found that overall the numbers in Ph.Ds seem to be

higher. It seems pretty clear that our newest programs, developing programs and interdisciplinary programs are experiencing the best results. In terms of applications, our experience is similar to what is being seen nationally, we are down a couple of percent. A significant part of the issue in the professional and master's programs seems to be 1) local understanding that most are leaving and not coming back, dropping back – part is the job market, hitting the humanities hardest 2) federal loan program which is not as attractive from an interesting payback perspective, which is causing more students to pay their own way. We don't see that changing much over the next few years and we don't see enrollment in those areas bouncing back significantly. We do feel with the SPIRES and doctoral education where we are trying to place our emphasis, we are reasonably well positioned visa via other institutions. Given that we are looking to increase enrollment Distance Education will be an important part of what we do. We find nationally that a number of programs are doing well nationally.

Cindy Forehand then addressed the group regarding WebXtender. The feedback was that it was not easy to use. She stated that she has met with David Todd, Chief Information Officer, and he has put together a group that is going to look at the whole piece and see if we can increase the efficiency of the program. Two or three people from our office and a group from (ETS) will also be part of the group looking at ways to make it work better. An email survey is going to be circulated so you can inform the Graduate College as to what works and what you need it to do. We need to know what operating system you are using as well as the problems you are encountering with the web based program. The time frame expectation for when this will be ready is hopefully fall 2013. This will encapsulate both Mac and PC users. The question was raised whether there are administrative assistants working on this and it was confirmed there are.

Cindy Forehand then updated the faculty on the Grant Writing Workshops. She stated that it was very successful; 109 people came to the event and 129 were registered. There were 30 people from the College of Medicine, 17 from CESS, 15 from CAS and 10 from CEMS. There were two different workshops, one for people from Humanities and Social Sciences and the for STEM disciplines. There were 36 reviews back from Humanities & Social Sciences and 37 on the STEM disciplines very positive. Most people indicated that they would like us to do more of the training. This was a very expensive training.

Dean Grasso stated that he did a presentation to the Board of Trustees on what it takes to be a researcher at a university, a faculty member that is also doing research. The Board had no concept of what goes into a real faculty member's time. At the reception Dean Grasso stated that several people came up to him and were aghast at how much effort faculty members were putting in on things that don't relate to just teaching because that is what they think is a faculty person's only job. He indicated what is involved in acquiring actual research dollars, mounting a program, publishing, being vetted and all of that and the amount of time that goes into compliance, which is about 42% based on a recent survey, which is pretty significant. Amy Chen and her Ph.D student and undergrad student totally wowed the Board. The Board came away with a great understanding on what goes into this. Dean Grasso indicated that a lot of scholarship goes on in the Humanities & Social Sciences and it is very different from the sciences but this gives them a sense of at least one aspect of the scholarship and research that goes on here but does not go on at Smith College or Amherst College or Williams. They do scholarship but not at this level where they are competitive with the best programs in the country. Having said that, part of our scholarship enterprise involves translating our work into the private sector and getting big hits and making a lot of money. We have an office of Technology Commercialization and have recently hired a brand new Director, Todd Keiller left and we hired Corine Farewell, who comes from the University of Rochester. She has worked at both Cornell and Rochester where she involved in

the technology and commercialization offices there. She has three degrees from Cornell in addition to a Bachelor's, she is a Vet, has a DVM and an MBA.

Corine Farewell presented this Power Point Presentation <http://www.uvm.edu/~gradcoll/pp.pdf>.

Dean Grasso then thanked everyone for coming again and the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 P.M.