

**UALR Graduate Council
Minutes
February 8, 2012, 3pm
Ottenheimer Library, Room 509**

Members Present: David McAlpine, , Karen Kuralt, David Dearman, Sung-Kwan Kim, Amanda Nolen, Chyrle Cantrell, Yupo Chan, Kenji Yoshigoe, Liz Pierce, Julien Mirivel, Stacy Moak, Lillie Wichinsky, Lirong Zeng, Mark Seigar, Alesa Liles, Michael Bauer

Members Absent: Angela Hunter, Roger Dorsey, Betty Wood, Maureen James, Dan Sweeney, Kyle Ferguson

Others Present: Paladino, Lewis, Pellicane, Steele

Amanda Nolen called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Minutes of the January 25, 2012 meeting were approved.

New Business:

Report of Personnel Committee:

Recommendations for Full Graduate Faculty Status:

Ellen Fitzpatrick	Doctorate	Faculty	CSPS
Warigia Bowman	Doctorate	Faculty	CSPS

Recommendations for Affiliate Graduate Faculty Status:

William Pearson	Doctorate	Adjunct	EDAS
Reza Hakkak	Doctorate	Faculty	UAMS
Connie Tollett	Doctorate	Adjunct	EDFN

Motion passed by council.

Report of the UALR/UAMS Joint Graduate Council:

The joint council met on January 19, 2012 to discuss changes for the Bioinformatics program.

Seigar explained to the committee that the Bioinformatics program will create a second, formal track, to be called the Medical Health Informatics Track (MHI) at the Master's level. The UALR/UAMS Joint Graduate Council approved the proposal pending the creation of two MHI courses at UAMS. The BINF program faculty will submit the full proposal through the UAMS and the UALR curriculum approval processes. The program will also require a preliminary competency exam for MS students. Seigar informed the committee that a new class will be added to the master's program: SYEN 7118: Research Ethics in Science and Engineering

Dean's Report:

Pellicane mentioned presenting a web presence in foreign countries in native languages.

Fayetteville is currently using this method. Pellicane plans to contact an additional school to obtain information. There will be a suggestion in the budget hearing for funds to start this service in 4 languages. It will cost about \$17,000 for a year's service.

Pellicane mentioned a few items that were discussed in the Dean's council meeting.

- No new state dollars
- Enrollment is level with a decline in Graduate studies
- Health insurance premiums are increasing 10%
- Trojan Trolley costs \$300,000
- 2 new buildings are scheduled for be up by fall 2012 and resources have not be allocated
- Proposal for more online programs with the same marketing company that ASU is using
- Provost instruction reserve
- All academic departments are underfunded
- Commitment to the YouTeach program
- No tuition increases

Pellicane explained to the council that there are many new expenses with no new revenue to balance them out and most of these issues are present because enrollment is down. He extended a push towards retaining students on a departmental level and being sensitive to student's needs.

Pellicane suggested that data showed that approximately 200 students had dropped out of classes in the last semester.

Cantrell asked if data can be retrieved to determine which departments are losing students.

Nolen asked for clarification in if this meant students who had withdrew with a class or the whole university.

Pellicane responded by suggesting that this data was from students who withdrew from ALL classes at UALR.

Seigar questioned whether or not this included students who failed qualifying exams.

Nolen inquired about any funding that may be available from the Graduate school for recruitment efforts on a departmental level.

Pellicane responded that recruitment is done by the Graduate office; however there is no data to show how effective this traditional form of recruitment is. He and other deans have met to explore strategies and new ways to recruit.

Wichinsky suggested that retention efforts should be aimed at *why* programs are losing students, ie: writing skills.

Pellicane added that administrators need a clear look at what students “look like” at UALR in graduate programs and suggested the increased use of admission tests.

Pellicane ended his report with discussing the importance of showing good service to students.

Nolen asked if faculty members were involved in the decision making for accelerated learning online.

Pellicane reassured her that no decisions have taken place yet.

Nolen responded with a suggestion that faculty be included in some of these discussions.

Wichinsky asked for an update on the health insurance for students.

Pellicane stated that there was no answer but he would like he have something in place by July 1, 2012.

Nolen pointed out that providing health insurance would be a nice recruiting tool.

Associate Dean’s Report:

Lewis informed the council that this meeting will be the last that Paladino is present. Graduation checkout is almost finished for the fall 2011 semester.

Meeting dismissed at 3:54 pm.