

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT LITTLE ROCK
Graduate Council Minutes
September 1, 2010

Members Present: Bauer, Cantrell, Dearman, Dorsey, Hossain, James, Jennings, Kim, Kuralt, Lanza, Liles, McAlpine, Miller, Mirivel, Moak, Nolen, Pierce, Seigar Sweeney, Wood, Yoshigoe, Zacher

Members Absent: Briscoe

Others Present: Andrew Eshleman, Allyson Hughes, Brooks, Miller Lewis, Pellicane

Meeting started @3:02pm

Dr. Steve Jennings, Graduate Council Chair and graduate coordinator of Bioinformatics, opened the meeting. Each representative introduced themselves. Dr. Andrew Eshleman, Associate Professor of Philosophy & Liberal Studies and Chair of Faculty Senate thanked everyone for being on graduate council. Dr. Eshleman stated that the Chancellor's goal for this academic year is student success and retention.

Minutes of 04/28/09 approved as corrected.

Old Business:

Dr. Jennings apologized for the graduate council website not being updated. He is trying to work with Aaron Baker, UALR webmaster, on the website.

New Business:

Allyson Hughes, Assistant Director of International Services, and Sheena Brooks, Assistant to the UALR Associate Graduate Dean, presented an alternative to the TOEFL exam: the IELTS test. Sheena mentioned that the test is one-on-one, not computer based, so students' speaking ability can be tested more accurately. Allyson mentioned that other universities in the U of A system are already accepting the test. One advantage of accepting this test is that it would give some students a more convenient alternative. Allyson is going to provide more information to Grad Council at a later date.

Report of the Curriculum Committee:

Dr. Karen Kuralt, Associate Professor of Rhetoric & Writing and Chair of Curriculum Committee, gave the deadline dates to have curriculum change forms turned in: October 15 for the Fall and March 15 for the Spring. She distributed a checklist for Curriculum/Program Change Forms that will help the Committee members to evaluate submissions and also to help people fill out the forms correctly. Dr. Jennings stated that we could put that information up on the website once it is updated.

Report of the Personnel Committee:

Dr. David Dearman, Associate Professor of Accounting and Chair of Personnel Committee, stated that they would continue to vote on faculty nominations online. Also, he stated that his Committee would meet on Wednesdays at 2pm before Graduate Council in the Graduate School conference room.

Associate Dean's Report:

Dr. Johanna Miller Lewis, Associate Dean of the Graduate School, thanked all graduate coordinators for attending the mandatory coordinators meetings this August. She mentioned that we would be uploading the coordinators' handbook and policies to the graduate council website too.

The Graduate School would like to develop a "chart form" common across all programs that would assist with graduation checkout. And the Grad School will be getting out of the business of registering students or classes except in extenuating circumstances. The GRE test is being overhauled and a new version will be in place next year.

Dean's Report

Dr. Patrick Pellicane, Vice Provost for Research/Dean of Graduate School, welcomed new members to the Graduate Council. He mentioned that enrollment was down this year for graduate school; a number of factors played a part in the decrease. We now have a \$40 application fee, some graduate programs are being phased out, we now charge out-of-state tuition for some online programs, some programs have strengthened their admission requirements, and some programs are now experiencing new, in-state competition.

There have been discussions between the Grad School and Dr. John Talburt, head of the Information Quality program, about developing an electronic program of study over the next few years using some IQ graduate students.

Graduate School will be moving to the 5th floor of the library, but he didn't have an exact date, but probably the end of the Fall 2010 semester.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15pm