

University of Arkansas at Little Rock
Graduate Council Minutes
September 25, 2013

Members Present: Laura Smoller, Angela Hunter, Karen Kuralt, David Dearman, Nancy Landrum, Betty Wood, Ibrahim Duyar, Daniel Berleant, Yupo Chan, Shaun Thomas, Lillie Wichinsky, Matt Gifford, Marc Seigar, Brian Berry, Karen Wheeler, and Emily Davis.

Members Absent: Roger Dorsey, Kent Layton, Guoliang Huang, Maureen James, and Tara DeJohn.

Others Present: Paula Casey, Johanna Lewis, and Zulma Toro.

Meeting called to order at 3:02 by Marc Seigar, chair.

Dr. Seigar introduces the Provost.

Provost: Dr. Toro met with Paula Casey to discuss the restructuring committee's report. She is finishing her document with restructuring recommendations for the chancellor; Tuesday, October 1, is the deadline for that document.

- Recommends splitting the Graduate School and the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, and recommends separating the Graduate School Dean title from the Vice Provost of ORSP title.
- If created, the separate Vice Provost of Research position would include Nanotechnology & Commercialization & Innovation. Sequoyah National Research Center and ACHC will not fall into Research and will not be neglected in the changes.
- Does not recommend moving Graduate School recruiting and admissions functions to a different office, as they work in a fundamentally different way than undergraduate admissions.
- Does not recommend moving certification of graduate faculty outside of the Graduate School.
- Recommends creating an Office of Institutional Effectiveness to get standard definitions of data, and recommends moving ORSP under it.
- Compensation and work expectations for graduate coordinators are being examined on a program-by-program basis by Dean Casey and college deans. More progress can be made after restructuring settles.
- Supports the development of a multidisciplinary graduate program, and believes the Graduate School Dean needs to take the lead on this in engaging faculty.
- While budget cuts give the impression of halting university progress, new faculty and leadership must and will be hired for the university to move forward as a top

research and community engagement institution, though it may be some number of months before all necessary positions can be filled. The decision process of who can hire whom is now more serious and selective, and is handled by a committee.

- States that she needs a better understanding of Graduate School IT functions before she can make a recommendation.
- Committed to finding and fixing areas of improvement alongside the Graduate School and Dean Casey.
- The chancellor will address both academic and administrative restructuring most likely by this Friday, October 4.

Minutes from September 11, 2013 were approved, with minor changes to members in attendance.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- **Curriculum Committee:** nothing to report, has not met yet.
- **Personnel Committee:** three items of business:
 1. *Recommendation for Affiliate Graduate Faculty Status:*
Nidhal Bouaynaya Doctorate Rowan University ENSS
Motion passed by council.
 2. Dr. Wright of the Graduate Faculty Senate states that the first priority for the GFS is the General Education curriculum, so the soonest that the Graduate Faculty Status Policy proposal could be brought before them is December, or possibly the beginning of next year. Dr. Wright also recommends that the council consider the impact of restructuring on the GFS document. The personnel committee recognizes certain areas need attention—especially the area of export control—and they will work on it and move it forward as quickly as possible.
 3. Recommends that the PDF form be required for those submitting a GFS application. The council requests that this form be made more readily available on the Graduate School website.
- **Dean's Report:**
 - Dana Steele has devised new training for the Admissions coordinators, to update and streamline their knowledge.
 - Tabitha Lee, the new recruitment hire, has been to two recruiting fairs with more to come. She and the admissions staff are actively contacting all students who give her their information.
- **Associate Dean's Report:** Nothing to report.

Meeting adjourned by Dr. Seigar at 3:58 p.m.

