Minutes of the UALR Graduate Council

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

3pm

Grad Council Chair
Nominations from the floor for Graduate Council (GC) chair: Karen Kuralt by Dave McAlpine, withdrawn; Angela Hunter nominated Steve Jennings (SJ), seconded by Abhijit Bhattacharyya; Judyth moved to close nominations; Dave moved to vote by acclamation; SJ new GC chair

Election/Appointment of Committee Chairs:
Karen Kuralt (KK) will chair Curriculum Subcommittee (by acclamation)
Angela Hunter (AH) will chair Personnel Subcommittee (by acclamation)

Vice Chair
Self-nomination by Judyth (by acclamation)

New Business
SJ wants to put more stuff on-line, focus more on policy issues (e.g., clarifying the role of the GC); Faculty Senate wants GC to take more responsibility.

Pat Pellicane (PP) drafted some policies to fill in gaps, some simple and some complicated. PP wants to bring this to GC. Major concern: no policy on policies. SJ asked PP about University Research Committee; PP assembled task force on Responsible Code of Research because of lack of time. NSF requires RCR for universities applying for grants; deadline is 1.4.10.

SJ wants to be more transparent; put minutes on web, etc. Wants GC to advise on Graduate Student Handbook; Johanna Miller Lewis (JML) mentioned that draft copy needs to be "in line" with current Student Handbook.

Liz Pierce asked about policy on web-cast format (999 courses), i.e., that most policies apply to "in person" students and not to on-line students; e.g., waiving fees for on-line students.

AH asked about whether GC wants to "renew" appointments to Faculty.

JML announced that Dean Sewall will be here on 9/23 to discuss upcoming NCATE visit.

JML: Will start using Blackboard for all matters coming before the Council, especially curriculum and personnel documents. SJ proposed actually doing business on-line; KK suggested dialing it back so that "routine matters" such as changing course numbers, etc., could be done on-line but not new course or program proposals.

<u>Dean's Report</u>
PP reiterated making GC a policy-making group.

Graduate Faculty: PP concern about graduate faculty and quality of students and faculty. When seeking a new identity in research, programs will not have a graduate "culture" and not have given due thought to graduate education (as different from undergraduate). There are different expectations for those mentoring PhD students than merely teaching courses. What are the qualifications of the faculty? Are they used to generating the resources necessary to support graduate students? With current graduate faculty categories, faculty are either on/off Graduate Faculty; Affiliate Status has been used for faculty without terminal degrees. David McAlpine stated opinion that the Graduate Dean cannot over-turn Graduate Council; he can refuse to sign a personnel form and send it on, but cannot "overturn" what the GC says [Need to check policy at cohort institutions].   SJ suggested that the way of improving graduate faculty qualifications is to work through program coordinators to enforce higher standards in their programs.

<u>Closing comments</u>
SJ: committee assignments will have to wait until we have complete list of members. Both committees must have members from all colleges.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00pm.

Prepared by JML and edited by SJ