

## 11-15-2013 GAC Minutes

Minutes of the Council meeting of November 15, 2013

Approved by the Council on March 11, 2014

In attendance: J. Aubin, J. Bartow (staff), F. Bolton (staff), S. Hogan, C. Preble  
A. Rorissa, Y. Tian, R. Toseland (Chair), K. Williams, M. Wolfe,  
A. Zemel

Guests: Dean David Rousseau, Rockefeller College  
Arash Alaei, GIHHR, Rockefeller College

### 1. Consideration of a Proposal to Establish a Graduate Certificate Program in Health and Human Rights

Dean David Rousseau of Rockefeller College introduced the Proposal that had previously been distributed to Council members. He noted the program would be delivered by Rockefeller College in collaboration with the Institute for Health and Human Rights (GIHHR), a University Institute under the auspices of the Vice President for Research. The program of study as detailed in the Proposal includes the completion of 5 graduate courses. A correction was mentioned to indicate the program is not to be considered multi-institutional, but cooperative with other institutions, such that up to two courses may be transferred into the program. It was noted that the proposal will need to go additionally before the Senate's UPPC for consideration of budgetary implications and harmony with University. As to the Proposal and its academic plan as examined by GAC, the Council voted to approve and endorse the Proposal, subject to needed technical corrections (including completed course actions) to the satisfaction of the Graduate Dean, by a vote of 8-0-1.

### 2. Chair's Report – Ron Toseland

Chair Toseland noted that the President has indicated the procedural separation of the College of NanoScale Science & Engineering from UAlbany was somewhat on hold.

### 3. Dean's Report – Kevin Williams

Dean Williams noted his recent participation with President (and others) at a student initiated forum. Issues addressed at the graduate level included well-being (especially GA/TA stipends); sustainability culture; diversity; fountain day (no); and Humanities programs. There was discussion about the importance of GSS (Graduate Student Support) funding and need for increased investment and funding levels. Dean Williams noted that there was not common understanding of graduate student funding structurally and there appears to be a need for better communication on that topic leading to a broader understanding.

### 4. Committee on Admissions & Academic Standing (CA&AS) – Alan Zemel

Prof. Zemel summarized the student petition case for exception that had previously been shared with Council members. There was minimal discussion and the Council readily accepted the CA&AS report, thereby approving the recommendation contained within it, by a vote of 9-0-0.

5. Committee on Curriculum & Instruction (CC&I) – Florie Bolton for Sridar Chittur

The CC&I report was previously distributed to Council members. It contained one action item regarding a structural change to the curriculum of the DrPH program, to include registration expansion of the Doctoral Seminar in Evidence Based Public Health from one to two semesters, 3 to 6 credits, with corresponding reduction in the required doctoral research credits from 12 to 9, in order that the program remains at 75 credit total. The Council vote swiftly to accept the report and thereby approve the curriculum amendment change recommended therein by a vote of 9-0-0.

Future Meeting: December 12, 2013, 9:00AM, UAB320

END OF GAC 11/15/2013 MINUTES

\*\*\*\*\*