

Graduate Academic Council 2009 – 2010

Minutes of the Council meeting of September 23, 2009
Approved by the Council on November 9, 2009.

In attendance: J. Baronner (staff), J. Bartow (staff), F. Bolton (staff), [S. Chittur](#); [S. Commuri](#); C. Fox; N. Fahrenkopf, L. Fuller; T. Groves; J. Kimball; L. Kranich (Chair), H. Miller, M. Pryse, K. Reinhold,

1. Group introductions were made at the start of the meeting.
2. Dean's report – M. Pryse

The Dean mentioned that we have 100 fewer grad students campus-wide enrolled for this semester.

The Graduate Student Support Doctoral Review process continues from its inception last spring. Institutional Research has gathered data on faculty, faculty quality, student quality, and program outcomes. All programs have responded to information supplied as well as supplying data on student post-graduation outcomes. The Dean mentioned that the next updated report will not be completed until late November or as late as next January.

3. Chair's report – L. Kranich

The Chair explained GAC proceedings and its subcommittee functions. He also reviewed the Council's charge as specified in the Charter of the University Senate, Section X.4. (http://www.albany.edu/senate/bylaws_charter.htm).

There are two GAC related issues continuing from the 2008-09 academic year: (1) the ongoing Graduate Support Survey (GSS), and (2) the proposal for an Advanced Graduate Certificate in Professional Science Management (PSM). In addition, three issues arose in the course of last year for consideration by GAC subcommittees: (1) a comprehensive review of the various types of graduate certificates, (2) a graduate syllabus requirement, and (3) graduate DARS audits similar to those that exist at the undergraduate level. It was mentioned that an effort is underway by the Registrar's Office to encode graduate students for DARS, but it is experimental at this point.

The Chair reported on the meetings by the Senate Executive Committee and the University Senate on September 14th and 21st, respectively. At the former, the Provost mentioned that she expects midyear budget cuts and this could affect graduate program funding. Also, the Provost reported on the status of pandemic plans for an emergency University shut down. This would disrupt graduate as well as undergraduate classes. At the Senate meeting, the President reported that the Chancellor intends to commence system-wide strategic planning which would require that the campuses do so as well. He also reported on the reincorporation of the Rockefeller Institute into the University. In her report, the Provost briefed the Senate on the status of the GSS review, the reasons for undertaking such a review at this time (namely, to identify strong programs for the

purpose of “investing in quality” and because it has been 12 years since the last comprehensive review), and the expected timeline. The review committee hopes to have a draft report by Thanksgiving.

4. Consideration of GAC Standing Committee Memberships

A draft membership slate for the three GAC committees was presented to the Council based upon identified preferences of Council members and other veteran GAC committee volunteers. After a brief discussion the Council voted unanimously to approve the slate and authorized the GAC Chair to approve additional appointments on an interim basis to fill remaining committee vacancies, subject to Council confirmation at a future GAC meeting. Following approval, the selection of three GAC members to chair each of the committees was discussed and approved, with outcome as noted below. The initial memberships approved are:

Key:

- * = GAC Member
- # = Committee veteran
- TF = Teaching Faculty
- PF = Professional Faculty
- C = agreed to serve as Committee Chairperson

Committee on Curriculum & Instruction

The committee shall have no more than eight members and shall include at least five Teaching Faculty, at least two of whom are on the Council.

John Kimball *	TF	Physics	Arts & Sciences
Timothy Groves * C	TF		NanoScale Science & Engineering
Karin Reinhold * #	TF	Mathematics	Arts & Sciences
Sally Friedman #	TF	Political Science	Rockefeller
(vacant)	TF		
Sridar Chittur *	PF	Center for Functional Genomics	
(optional vacancy)			
(optional vacancy)		(possible hold for student member)	

Committee on Educational Policy & Procedures

The committee shall consist of no more than eight members, including at least five Teaching Faculty, at least two of whom are on the Council, and no more than 2 voting members selected from Faculty or Staff who are not students or Voting Faculty.

Suraj Commuri *	C	TF	Business
Lisa Fuller *	TF	Philosophy	Arts & Sciences
Mitch Earlywine #	TF	Psychology	Arts & Sciences
(vacant)		TF	
(vacant)		TF	
Stacy Newman #	PF	Mathematics	Arts & Sciences
(optional vacancy)			
(optional vacancy)		(possible hold for student member)	

Committee on Admissions & Academic Standing

The committee shall include no more than eight members, including at least five Teaching Faculty, at least two of whom are on the Council, and no more than 2 voting members selected from Faculty or Staff who are not students or Voting Faculty.

Cynthia Fox *	TF	Lang., Lit. & Cul.	Arts & Sciences
Heather Miller * C	TF		University Libraries
Jerry Rivera-Wilson #TF		Ed Theory & Prac.	Education
Lynn Warner #	TF		Social Welfare
Shadi Shadhedipour #TF			NanoScale Science & Engineering
Linda Scoville #	PF	Advisement Serv.	Undergraduate Studies
Mary Jane Brustman #	TF		University Libraries
Nick Fahrenkopf *		Grad Student	

5. Update on the Advanced Certificate Proposal in Professional Science Management (PSM)

The PSM Advanced Certificate Proposal considered by the GAC in Spring 2009 was tabled in May for further consideration in Fall 2009. Jon Bartow has worked with faculty over the summer on the advanced certificate proposal and an amended proposal (distributed to Council members for information purposes) has been drafted (but is not yet complete).

Previously distributed documents pertaining to the PSM Advanced Certificate proposal from Spring 2009 were discussed. The GAC Committee on Curriculum & Instruction (CC&I) provided a 5/6/2009 comment/report to the Council. Reference to the PSM certificate is also included in the 5/11/2009 GAC meeting minutes. The Chair requested new Council members familiarize themselves with the Proposal. Chair Kranich also asked that when the updated Proposal is again ready for GAC review that the CC&I provide an advanced review and report comments to the Council, as was previously done in Spring 2009. The Chair requested that all concerns and/or suggestions for the proposed certificate be forwarded to Jon Bartow for forwarding to the faculty proponents.

6. Syllabus Policy for Graduate Courses in the Fall

The Dean mentioned University concern that we do not require a syllabus at the graduate level. A policy does exist at the undergraduate level and may be found on-line in the *Undergraduate Bulletin* under “Undergraduate Academic Regulations” (“Syllabus Requirement”). Chair Kranich asked that the CEP&P consider this possible policy development matter.

7. Other New Business

The Chair requested that the CEP&P place the potential development of graduate certificate policy/regulations on their 2009-10 agenda. Current policies on graduate certificate programs are antiquated and do not cover the full spectrum of graduate certificate types.

8. Future Meetings

Monday, November 9, 3:30-5:00 PM, UAB 320

Tuesday, December 8, 2:30-4:00 PM, UAB 320

END OF GAC 9/23/2009 MINUTES
