

The University of Akron
Minutes of the Graduate Faculty
April 17, 2003

Dr. George Newkome called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

Faculty in attendance: Paul Daum, Kathleen Endres, Lathardus Goggins, Sharon Kruse, Judith Lewis, Martin Murphy, Tim O'Neal, Rex Ramsier, James Rogers, Kathy Ross-Alaolmolki, and Isabelle Stombaugh.

Dr. Sharon Kruse questioned the minutes of the Fall 2002 meeting, specifically the portion that refers to the College of Education being down 2,000 credit hours and suffering a loss of \$330,000.

Dr. Newkome responded that this is the information as he has it. A portion of the \$330,000 was given back. He added that the reference to 2,000 credit hours can be removed from the minutes if that is agreeable.

1. Dr. Paul Daum moved to approve the minutes of the Fall 2002 Graduate Faculty meeting with the deletion of the reference to the 2,000 credit hour loss as stated. Dr. Rex Ramsier seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.
2. Dr. David Ayers, Director of the Office of International Programs, gave a Power Point presentation on SEVIS. SEVIS is the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System that requires all colleges and universities in the United States to report electronically to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) information about F-1 students and J-1 students and visiting scholars beginning January 30, 2003. Use of this system will help capture, maintain, and monitor information on international students and visitors. Data transfer should be expedited through its use, thus providing better information sharing. SEVIS will aid in the decrease of fraud and the heightening of security. Dr. Ayers indicated that the University will need to begin reporting this information on August 1, 2003. The Office of International Programs is currently entering all international students into SEVIS.

Dr. Newkome added that The University of Akron is caught in these Federal Rules and Regulations that are not fully in place yet. It will take time to get the kinks worked out. Dr. Newkome extended a thank you to Dr. Ayers for the time he has taken in putting this information together for the University community.

3. Reports

Dr. Rex Ramsier, Vice Chair of Graduate Council, provided a report to the Graduate Faculty. A copy of his report is attached.

Dr. Del Williams, Dean of University Libraries, provided a report to the Graduate Faculty. A copy of his report is attached.

Greg Rogers provided a report to the Graduate Faculty on behalf of Dr. Thomas Gaylord. He indicated that CDs containing information on the North Central accreditation will be distributed. The Fact Book is now available. It just arrived today and will be distributed across campus. Lastly, PeopleSoft updates are moving ahead. Mr. Rogers distributed information on R&D Expenditures.

Dr. Newkome stated that he has been trying to get accurate numbers, which has been difficult. He mentioned that while at USF when a system conversion took place the old system was retained for two years as back up, but The University of Akron has not done so. Perhaps, this is because the University has not had to go through such a transition until now. Dr. Newkome said that he is feeling more confident now than he was a year and a half ago. He mentioned that there must be particular attention paid to consistent entry into the PeopleSoft system. However, Dr. Newkome, added that the University has come a long way in making the transformation.

Greg Rogers said that the University did not run a dual system and it should have.

Dr. Newkome began his report to the Graduate Faculty by stating that \$122,000 was saved the first semester the 174-rule was implemented. He anticipates \$800,000 in savings once this is fully in place. Dr. Newkome stated that he initiated this rule when he discovered students with 300+ credit hours who still have not earned their degrees. He asked the department chairs to put into place a plan that would enable all students to graduate by the completion of 174 credit hours. The money that is saved will allow for reinvestment into programs. Dr. Newkome said that he hopes to start reinvestment this coming year.

Dr. Newkome stated that he has asked Graduate Council to examine the use of English and the speaking qualities of graduate students, specifically international graduate students. He is debating about how to best deal with this situation. Should a language exam be required for these students? The cost of the courses offered by ELI are often quite expensive, and the students cannot afford them. The Graduate School could offer courses that are for credit, which would generate state subsidy, and these courses would focus on English proficiency, both spoken and written.

Dr. Newkome commented that instead of using diversity money in the Graduate School, it will be used in the departments and their programs. He said that a questionnaire was sent to the Deans about which programs are the best. Money will be reinvested in the top ten programs. Dr. Newkome stated that revenue coming into the University must be maximized, looking at students, what programs they are in, and how they are funded.

Dr. Newkome said it has been a good year with interesting accomplishments, both in Graduate Education and Research.

4. Action Items Referred from Graduate Council

There were no action items for discussion.

5. Old Business

There was no old business for discussion.

6. New Business

There was no new business for discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather A. Blake
Graduate School