

The University of Akron
Minutes of the Graduate Faculty
November 13, 2003

Dr. George Newkome called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Faculty in attendance: Paul Daum, Robert Kent, Maryhelen Kreidler, Therese Lueck, James Rogers, Julia Spiker, and Susan Witt.

1. Dr. Paul Daum moved to approve the minutes of the Spring 2003 Graduate Faculty meeting. Dr. James Rogers seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.
2. Reports

Dr. Maryhelen Kreidler, Vice Chair of Graduate Council, provided a report to the Graduate Faculty. A copy of her report is attached.

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

Dr. Thomas Gaylord, Vice President for Information and Instructional Technologies, Libraries, and Institutional Planning, was not in attendance. No report was provided on his behalf.

Ms. Billi Copeland, Acting President of Graduate Student Government, provided a report to the Graduate Faculty. A copy of her report is attached.

Dr. Newkome reported to the Graduate Faculty that he is still finding many errors in the enrollment numbers as a result of the system conversion to PeopleSoft. He has asked departments to go line-by-line through the numbers and report any discrepancies in an effort to help "clean up" the data as much as possible. Dr. Newkome stated that in looking at the numbers we must take into consideration what courses are profitable. Are some programs better than others from a fiscal point-of-view?

Dr. Newkome said that The University of Akron is proceeding with its proposal for the doctoral program in Integrative Biology. Also, in early Spring the LL.M. in Intellectual Property will be presented to RACGS for approval.

He added that there will be a University committee established for program evaluation and he has asked Dr. Rex Ramsier from the Department of Physics and Dr. Tom Dukes from the Department of English to serve on this committee as graduate representatives. The last program reviews done were in the mid-1990s.

Dr. Therese Lueck asked whether OBR program reviews will include the review of master's programs.

Dr. Newkome responded that RACGS has new rules and regulations to manage program reviews both at the master's and doctoral levels. Dr. Newkome said he

did not know if and when this program evaluation may occur but there needs to be a distinct positive attribute shown for Ohio residence. He continued by stating that all doctoral programs are required to be reviewed no less than every eight years.

Dr. Newkome concluded his report by proposing that this meeting be held only once a year. It was his hope that an annual meeting would increase the attendance.

3. Action Items Referred from Graduate Council

Proposal to change the wording of University Rule 3359-60-064 Doctoral Degree Requirements, Residency Requirements, so that summer sessions would count as one semester, provided that candidate is enrolled for a minimum total of six semester credit hours per combined summer terms.

This proposal was approved by Graduate Council on October 27, 2003.

Dr. James Rogers made a motion to approve the amendment to University Rule 3359-60-064. Dr. Paul Daum seconded this motion. The proposed amendment was unanimously approved.

4. Old Business

Dr. Robert Kent asked whether or not diversity recruitment still exists.

Dr. Newkome responded that diversity stipend dollars have been shifted from the Graduate School to the colleges and departments. He added that he plans to ask Graduate Council to consider other ways in which this money should be distributed and what criteria should be used for its distribution.

Dr. Robert Kent suggested that candidates for this money be brought forward and, perhaps, have some form of competition for the diversity slots.

Dr. Maryhelen Kreidler said that she is unfamiliar with diversity recruitment.

Ms. Karen Caldwell responded that Dr. Kathy Ross-Alaolmolki works with this aspect of recruiting and that the College of Nursing receives diversity funds.

5. New Business

There was no new business for discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather A. Blake
Graduate School