The University of Akron
Minutes of the Graduate Faculty
April 11, 2012

Dr. Mark Tausig called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Present: Dr. Phil Allen, Heather Blake, Dr. Kevin Cavicchi, Dr. Rebecca Erickson, Gail Herzig, Dr. Marlene Huff, Dr. John Huss, Cheryl Kern-Simirenko, Dr. Francis Loth, Dr. Suzanne MacDonald, Dr. Tim Matney, Dr. Tim O'Neal, Matt Petras, Dr. James Rogers, Dr. Harvey Sterns, and Dr. Monte Turner

1. Minutes from April 13, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved.

2. Reports

    Dr. Rebecca Erickson, Vice Chair of Graduate Council, provided a report to those graduate faculty members present. A copy of the report is attached.

    Gail Herzig and Matt Petras, Information Technology Services, provided a report to those graduate faculty members present on behalf of Mike Giannone. A copy of the report is attached.

    Ms. Cheryl Kern-Simirenko, Dean, University Libraries, provided a report to the graduate faculty.

    ➢ Agreement has been secured with a vender for a development partnership in the Next Generation Library System. This will help internally to improve cataloging and circulation. Currently, all aspects of the system are being tested. It is hoped that the system will be fully implemented by Summer 2012 if all goes well in the testing phase.
    ➢ A number of research collections have been added.
    ➢ The University Libraries, along with CSU, KSU, YSU, and NEOMED, has created the first depository in Northeast Ohio. This has expedited services as requests are filled right at the depository.
    ➢ Learning Commons were established this fall. The Learning Commons create an environment conducive to engaged learning, which is open to every student.
    ➢ Updates are currently planned for the Science Library. These include installation of swipe card technology, creation of a learning studio and media room, and purchasing new furniture.

    Ms. Alexa Doutt, President of Graduate Student Government, could not attend today's meeting due to a schedule conflict. Dr. Mark Tausig indicated that Graduate Student Government has been quite active this year. They are funded by the Vice President for Student Success and Engagement. GSG now has an established budget, which has provided funding for students to attend conferences. Also, social events have taken place to which all graduate students were invited.

Dr. Mark Tausig, Associate Dean of the Graduate School, provided a report to the graduate faculty.

> ➢ This year the Graduate School received 4,800 applications.
> ➢ 3, 963 graduate students this year. This is down slightly from last year. Graduate student credit hour production also down somewhat compared to last year.
> ➢ 1,300 students received some form of assistantship funding (either Graduate School or department supported).
> ➢ Last year the University conferred 96 doctoral degrees and 1,036 master's degrees.
> ➢ Graduate assistant stipend budget was the same this year as it was last year. That last time that stipends were raised (by 3%) was five years ago. Currently, the University is falling behind other institutions somewhat. No immediate increase in stipend budget on the horizon.
> ➢ Working to implement an exit survey for graduate students. Graduate School hopes to implement this survey with Summer 2012 graduation. Data gathered from this survey will be shared with the academic departments.
> ➢ One new graduate program was approved this year, and that was the Doctor of Nursing Practice.

3. Action Items Referred from Graduate Council

Revision of Board Rule 3359-24-01 *Bylaws of the Graduate Faculty* to reflect changes resulting from the merger of the College of Creative and Professional Arts with the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences as well as the creation of the College of Health Professions

These revisions to the Bylaws of the Graduate Faculty were unanimously approved.

4. Old Business

There was no old business for discussion.

5. New Business

There was no new business for discussion

The meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather A. Blake
Graduate School

Report of the Vice Chair

2012 Graduate Faculty Meeting
Wednesday, April 11, 2012

Since the beginning of the academic year, the Graduate Council has had seven meetings.

- The Curriculum Committee, chaired by Dr. Mieko Smith, has reviewed, approved, and recommended 115 curriculum proposals to Graduate Council so far this year. Graduate Council approved all of the proposals as recommended by the committee.

- The Graduate Faculty Membership Committee, chaired by Dr. Phillip Allen, has reviewed, approved, and recommended 90 applications for graduate faculty membership to Graduate Council so far this year. Graduate Council approved all of the graduate faculty applications as recommended by the committee.

- The Student Policy Committee, chaired by Dr. Rebecca Erickson, was asked by Dr. Mark Tausig, Associate Dean, Graduate School, to review the current requirement for the outside representative of a dissertation committee to be a Category II member of the UA Graduate Faculty and outside of the student's home department. From time to time students, particularly those in a joint program with another institution, will want to have an outside representative from the other institution who is outside of the home department. The Student Policy Committee reviewed the current policy at the request of Dr. Tausig, and the consensus among the committee members was that the policy is fine the way it is. There appears no immediate need to revise it.

- Amendments to 3359-24-01 *Bylaws of the Graduate Faculty* were approved by the Graduate Council. These amendments reflect changes in the colleges, the College of Creative and Professional Arts merging with the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences, and the creation of the College of Health Professions.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Rebecca Erickson, Professor, Sociology
Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences
Vice Chair, Graduate Council

Information Technology Services

Report to the Graduate School
April 11, 2012

Jim Sage
VP Information Technology & CIO

This is a brief look into some of projects and activities of Information Technology Services, often working with colleges and other departments, over the past twelve months (April 2011 - March 2012).

Lab Virtualization

Beginning with the Spring 2012 semester, the University began using cloud (Internet) technology to give students and staff access to specialized software. The University's cloud-hosted virtual computer lab delivers a complete desktop from the cloud on any device, anywhere. In the past, the specialized software was only available in select computer labs on campus. The virtual lab provides 24/7, remote access. Working with vendors who currently permit their software to be provided through the cloud, ITS acquired software licensing for 100 hosted virtual desktop seats. ITS will make more software available as licensing options are discovered. Currently, the virtual lab provides access to AutoCAD 2012, SPSS 19, SAS 9.2, JMP 9, and Minitab 16.

Faculty Laptop Refresh

During the Fall 2011 and Spring 2012 semesters, new laptop computers were distributed to full-time faculty. Developed with input from faculty members, the basic configuration of the new technology was offered at no cost to departments. This configuration met the computing needs of most of the faculty. The computers that were returned by full-time faculty were refurbished and distributed to part-time faculty. University Deans and Department Chairs identified the full- and part-faculty members in their respective colleges who received the computers. Faculty members, in turn, selected the technology they preferred.

e-textbooks/Digital Content

At the request of the Ohio Board of Regents and Chancellor Petro, the University submitted its recommendations for "A Plan to Reduce the Cost of Textbooks for Students." The Office of Academic Affairs and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee invited faculty and staff to serve

on the work teams to further refine project goals and specify project deliverables. The University began implementing the recommendations contained in the report during the Spring 2012 semester. Short-term the plan is to move students to lower cost book options including used and rental books. In the longer-term, instructors will be encouraged to use digital textbooks and other digital materials, which will help minimize the need for textbooks.

Data Warehouse/Business Intelligence

This project will move the University of Akron to a more structured data and strategic decision support system. Currently, the data exists in the transactional system where there is no correlation among various information sources. This project will provide organization and correlation of the disparate data to enhance the strategic and tactical decision capabilities at all levels of the University.

The initial phase of this project, which is expected to be completed by June 2012, will put the University in place to leverage these new tools as well as provide examples of the financial, workforce, and student reporting that will be available to our decision makers. The second phase of this project will provide some focused reporting and dashboards related to research.

Digital Signage

The University's new, enterprise digital signage system will use Four Winds Interactive (FWi) software. Hardware (screens, brackets, CPUs) are being purchased by the Library, Student Union, Law School, Residence Halls, and Rob's Dining. Other locations are open to join the network.

The technology will allow individual colleges and departments to run messages on their own video monitors. At the same time, the University will be able to send a single message throughout the campus as needed, for example during an emergency or during the President's State of the University.

ITS will provide the software and technology for the signage. Each college/department will purchase its own hardware. Institutional Marketing has been asked to take ownership of the signage process. The new system will replace the Novicast signage currently in use in a few locations.

Shared Service: Supporting PeopleSoft at LCCC

UA continues to work with LCCC to manage and upgrade PeopleSoft Tools, Campus Solutions, Human Capital Management and Accounting applications. A significant upgrade to the student administration and human capital management applications was made in mid-February 2012. This upgrade included application fixes, application enhancements, and tax upgrades for year-end W2 and 1099 processing.

A new governance process is being implemented at LCCC with the help of UA. It involves oversight meetings with each application's functional analysts and a steering committee with senior management to request projects, escalate issues, and approve and track major projects.

Shared Service: Innovation Alliance

Innovation Alliance, which includes Lorain County Community College, Stark State College, and The University of Akron, focuses on the sharing of administrative services.

This project's steering committee agreed to investigate the payroll process and determine the business case for combining each school's payroll office into a single business unit to support all three organizations. ScottMadden was hired to gather data and create the business case. The project launched in April and should take 10 to 12 weeks. The outcome will determine if the group will continue with payroll, select another service to evaluate, or stop the investigation.

Conversations are underway with the Ohio Office and Budget Management to determine its interest in extending our shared service offerings to municipalities and high schools.

Software as a Service (SaaS)

Due to the continuation of significantly increased costs and the end of the technology architecture life span with Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) applications like PeopleSoft, an investigation was launched into the next generation of computer applications.

The term used to describe the new application architecture and delivery model is Software-as-a-Service (SaaS). SaaS products, such as Workday Human Capital Management (HCM), provide lower total cost of ownership and improved quality of service through standardization of business processes. A SaaS HCM implementation will also make shared services possible in a much shorter timeframe than with today's other ERP offerings. IT continues to explore this promising new approach while also working to advance shared services among schools in Ohio.

Grants Management Post-award

There are two related projects being developed simultaneously – General Ledger chart field restructuring and Grants Management Post-award implementation.

Preliminary work continues on a project to modify the UA chart of accounts that will support Grants Post-award. This includes adding projects to track individual grants and modifying the current account code structure because the application is quickly reaching the upper limit of available codes.

Work continues on testing the new version of PeopleSoft Financials, V9.1, which is expected to be placed in production by May 1.

Implementation of the Grants Post-award application should be completed early next year. Post-award will provide better award tracking and management, facilities and administration processing, comprehensive bill generation, and financial reporting. The project will result in increased operational efficiency, data integrity, regulatory compliance, and fiscal accountability.

eLearning Initiative

The University's eLearning pilot with Pearson is currently underway with a total of 157 enrollments in 11 courses. Students and instructors in the fully online Postsecondary Technical Education programs (BS and MS) are participating in their Spring 2012 courses via the Pearson LearningStudio platform. Around-the-clock technical support is being provided by vendor.

Students and instructors will be participating in survey research and other feedback forums to evaluate the outcomes of the pilot. Additionally, the Taylor Institute will conduct a study with additional faculty members and students from other disciplines to assess the usability of the platform, support, online instructional design and marketing.

Contributor Relations

The Contributor Relations assessment team continues its search for a possible replacement for the existing PeopleSoft application to increase the ability of the Office of Development to reach greater numbers of alumni/friends of UA and increase giving.

After reviewing an offering by a smaller company, Agilon, it was determined that an RFP would be necessary to provide that company and possibly others with an equal opportunity to compete for UA's business with Blackbaud. Blackbaud is the market leader for higher education institutions and has a significant market share. An RFP was issued and responses are being reviewed.