

Graduate Administrators Council Meeting

Koch Hall Administration Building Room 300

Thursday, April 2, 2009

9:00-10:30 a.m.

Attending: Phil Langlais, chair, Brenda Neuman Lewis, Bill Hain, Gary Edinger, Ed Con, Mike O'Mara, Bonnie Van Lunen, Robert Wojtowicz, Ted Remley, Isao Ishibashi, Osman Akar, Stevenson-Marshall, Yin Xu

Approval of March 19, 2009 Minutes

Minutes approved without changes

Updates/Announcements

Dr. Phil Langlais announced that worksheets for the BLD/MSU/MSU system are underway and several have not completed or signed up for a training session. Dr. Langlais requested the academic deans inform their GPDs to take one of the BLD/MSU/MSU working reports and return it to the director of Admissions. Specific questions about the worksheets should be posed to Steve Risden, Director of Admissions.

Dr. Langlais distributed the CGS consultant report to Council. He stated the report had been distributed at last week's Provost Council meeting and academic deans had already rejected the consultant's recommendation that ODU have one centralized graduate school/college. He indicated that the deans and provost prefer a decentralized model in which each college has its own independent graduate school. The provost is planning a report to further discuss these suggestions. Dr. Langlais asked what internal graduate college means? Dr. Brenda Neuman Lewis, who was at the last Provost Council, responded that it meant each college would be responsible for its own graduate programs.

Dr. Langlais distributed the SFM Strategic Plan to Council. He reported that the SFM Strategic Plan had deferred its decision on the recommendations on graduate studies until after the CGS consultant report was received. At last week's meeting with the chairs of the SFM student committee Dr. Langlais shared the Provost Council's decisions and suggested that Alice McArdy, associate vice president, coordinate the implementation of the CGS report and the SFM student committee's recommendations with the provost.

Dr. Langlais distributed the recommendations of the SFM Graduate Committee regarding assessment of quality and viability of graduate programs and the need to establish strategic priorities. Dr. Langlais reported that the SFM Graduate Committee requested that the Provost and Academic deans use the metrics provided in its recommendations to guide allocation of resources and enrollment targets.

Dr. Langlais reported that approval of the Goals/Objectives of Graduate Studies Statement and Goals/Objectives has been put on hold until the Provost and Academic deans decide on the Office of Graduate Studies.

Graduate Recruitment Policy

Council reviewed the recruitment policy and suggested changes. Dr. Langlais reported that the recruitment policy is important and should be reflected in the statement and suggested adding a metric for graduate student body in numbers 1 and 2 of the statement. Dr. Ali Ardalan suggested removing the phrase "talent pool" because diversity should not be related to the talent pool. Dr. Langlais stated that the statement should be representative of graduate students and faculty at ODU and that "talent pool" would be

removed. Council agreed that this new statement should appear in the graduate catalog and the mission statement. Dr. Osgood expressed concern about including the CCS website in the statement because it would change over time. Dr. Osgood has recommended that we create a current CCS statement in a print, provide the proper attribution to CCS and CCS, and incorporate it into the current statement.

Council unanimously approved that suggestion and the following statement:

Old Dominion University's Inclusiveness Statement

Old Dominion University is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all students, faculty, and staff. Our first priority is the provision of the highest quality of education and the best possible experience possible. We recognize that we are a diverse community and we encourage applications from all individuals, including those from underserved populations.

In particular, we embrace the principles that:

1. A diverse graduate student body and faculty body best serves the interests of our nation;
2. A diverse student body and faculty body and respect for diverse opinions and intellectual exploration, regardless of the reason of that intellectual knowledge;
3. Our graduates will thrive in a diverse environment; fostering that inclusiveness in graduate education promotes the greatest ultimate success.

Old Dominion University's inclusiveness statement is available on the website of the Council of Graduate Studies, <http://www.usgnet.org>.

Updates from 2008-09 Sub Committees

a. University Thesis/Dissertation

Dr. Robert W. Wondolitz reported that Dr. Diana Carter will have a report on the meeting.

b. GTA Institute (Criteria for Evaluation of Graduate Programs and Recommendations for Continuation/Fairing)

Dr. Ardalan reported that he is still researching and will have a report at the next GTA meeting.

Candidacy Requirements

Dr. Ted Remley raised several questions regarding the meaning of "advancement to candidacy." He asked what happens if a student who becomes a candidate is then able to register for one credit. Dr. Wondolitz stated that a student is then able to register for one credit. Dr. Milby stated that she has been in a dialogue including career advantages for ABD students. Dr. Remley then asked what an appropriate dissertation proposal is. Council agreed that proposals should be submitted to the GTA. Council also agreed that it was recommended that students should finish their proposals before the completion of their colleges. Dr. Wondolitz agreed that students should finish their proposals before the completion of their

coursework. Further discussion re-emphasized that advancement in candidacy requirements are uniform across the university but ARI and certain events are not.

Continued Discussion on Continuity of Enrollment Policy

There was a lengthy discussion on the issue of the continuation policy. Dr. Wojtowicz began by stating his position that it is unnecessary for students to pay tuition during the summer and that students are required to do so. Some of the student points that were raised were faculty not on staff during the summer and working with the pay. If students complete their degrees in a timely fashion the end of the academic year and the implications of funding the degree. Dr. Bonnie Van Lunen asked if students will have access to resources such as labs during the summer. Council agreed that a student should have access to university resources during the summer if they are not enrolled.

Dr. Garzon suggests that GAC can make more progress in this area. Neumon Lewis stated that there is a need for a policy that allows for a student to be enrolled. Dr. Ardalan recommended strict enforcement of the policy of no enrollment for a student who has received an exception and has just the financial aid any special information. Advice, etc., would immediately be changed which would have a major impact on the impact of such a policy was suggested. Dr. Ardalan recommended that a decision on this policy should not depend on a financial impact analysis. Council will continue the discussion on this issue at the next meeting of GAC.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:30 a.m.