

**Graduate Council Meeting
October 22, 2004
Minutes**

Faculty Members Present:

David Cannon, Cindy Coviak, William Crawley, Rita Kohrman, Mark Luttenton,
Nancy Mack, Jeff Ray, Ben Rudolph, Roger Wilson

Absent: John Shinsky

Student Members Present: Dorjee Damdul

Absent: Jennifer Treat

Administrative Ex-Officio:

Priscilla Kimboko, Graduate Studies; Irene Fountain, Graduate Studies

Absent: Lynn Blue, Registrar

Student Ex-Officio: Kenneth Patricio

Interim Chair C. Coviak opened the meeting at 9:02 AM.

1. Approval of Minutes

a. October 8

Discussion: There was no discussion.

Action: B. Rudolph motioned and N. Mack seconded. Minutes approved.

b. October 15

Discussion: Because the minutes were just distributed, approval was deferred until the next meeting of the whole.

2. Approval of Agenda

Discussion: Introductions were added to the agenda as there were new participants, including Mike Pritchard, the graduate director of the School of Communications.

A permanent chair will be elected at the next meeting of the whole on November 5. The October 29 meeting is in the afternoon with the graduate directors. The next GC meeting is November 5.

3. Report from the Dean

Discussion: P. Kimboko discussed the minutes of October 15. She and Shirley Dilworth had worked on trying to get the essence of what was discussed and laid out the priorities of each group.

The UCC is still working on the bio proposals. The final plan had come through, but now they are just waiting for courses.

4. Report from UCC

Discussion: R. Wilson reported that the UCC meeting had been canceled.

6) Reports from Colleges

Discussion: KCON may have course changes coming through this year, but they are in elementary stages right now. However, these changes may just occur at college level. If courses are moved online, they may not come to the GC.

There is a curriculum review process going on in COE.

N. Mack reported that, in Math, they are working on preliminary stages of masters in math education. In secondary education, this would involve negotiations with COE. The proposal will not be ready this year.

Chemistry is doing the same as Math.

B. Rudolph reiterated what Claudia Bajema had mentioned in a previous meeting about changes in the MBA program. The proposals will come to the GC after they go through the SCB committee.

5) Priorities/Discussions

Discussion: The two major priorities to work on are (1) the scholarly outcomes standards and procedures and (2) student voice priorities.

At the last meeting, the GC had selected a number of priorities and members had indicated which group they wanted to work on.

Members of the discussion groups are:

Scholarly outcomes – R. Kohrman, M. Luttenton, N. Mack, J. Ray, R. Wilson

Student voice – D. Cannon, C. Coviak, D. Damdul, S. Lipnicki, K. Patricio, B. Rudolph.

Small Group Meeting Outcomes

Student Voice

Discussion: C. Coviak reported that Dorjee Damdul is working with group of grad students for tentative plans to get an organization off the ground. Some dates for a potential event had been discussed. They are: Oct. 29, Nov. 6, 13, 20, and Dec. 3, 4, 11, and 18. It was agreed that a Saturday event would be better than a Friday event. D. Damdul will take the discussion back to his task group to figure out when to do the first kickoff event.

Planning the event is the first step, then assessment and discussion of issues. They could hold a brief session to talk about the history of grad studies at GVSU with the purpose of coming up with issues, followed by work groups that will discuss priorities the planning group has come up with. They are looking at nine topics: 1) the role of the grad office for stronger grad community; 2) creation of a grad student handbook; 3) the GC, their role, with the students learning what they do; 4) what does a student voice mean to you at grad level; 5) rights & responsibilities of grad students; 6) whose job it is to represent

graduate student ideas at GVSU; 7) how to grow a graduate community both socially and academically; 8) creating a grad senate; 9) and building a student voice using technology.

The event would be a half day, roundtable format. Data will be collected to address issues; a plan of action to develop, collection of data for council development, a steering committee, and discussion of a rep on the faculty governance committees; plans to include distance campuses (using Blackboard would help). In places where GVSU has an ITV site, a meeting by ITV could be held. There is the question of; would there be paid support for a staff if a body got off the ground? There are currently paid student employees who work in offices. When/where should there be grad student reps on governance committees when there are already undergrad reps.

A social event toward first weekend of December could be planned. The grad directors may be asked to get funds to help startup activities. The event could be publicized through different academic departments, classes, and so on. The event does not have to be on campus.

D. Cannon asked to clarify the definition of a grad student as there are undergrads taking grad level courses. P. Kimboko explained that their status is determined by how they pay tuition as well as whether the student is admitted as a nondegree seeking grad student or is admitted to a graduate degree program. The group would like to find out the average age of grad students. This information can be obtained from the Records Office.

Per S. Lipnicki, most are returning masters students, but CSAL and DPT are more traditional. Many programs are made up of part-time adult students. B. Cole would like to look at the age of full time vs. part time students to see if there is a difference.

Scholarly Outcomes

Discussion: P. Kimboko gave a report of the scholarly outcomes discussion. The history of the thesis committee was that it had decided to look at the broader definition of scholarly outcomes. Pieces to look at are: what are the core elements; the format of a final product; the structure and whose role it is for deciding if the project is appropriate; how much credit for the student's effort; what is the review process; who has final sign off; faculty load issues; not mandating something that is not manageable in some programs; and to open up ideas of what scholarly outcomes are.

Adjournment

GC members were reminded that the next meeting is with the grad directors in the afternoon. The morning meeting has been canceled.

Meeting adjourned 11:00 AM.

October 22, 2004 Graduate Council minutes approved on November 5, 2004