

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Graduate Faculty
December 12, 2007**

Present: Susan Albin, Eric Allender, Barbara Bender, Sanjib Bhuyan, Jolie Cizewski, Linda Costa, Martha Cotter, Teresa M. Delcorso, Ramu Govindasamy, Allen Howard, Bingru Huang, Jerome Kukor, Michael J. Leibowitz, Kristen Lester, Charles Martin, Alexander Neimark, Richard S. Nowakowski, Peter Parks, John Pavlik, Carl Pray, Andras Prekopa, Ronald Ransome, Michael Saks, Marcy Schwartz, Richard V. Simmons, Lawrence Stromberg, Carl Swisher, Andrew Vershon and George Wagner

The Minutes of the meeting of April 26, 2007 were approved.

Report of the Dean:

Acting Dean Cizewski praised the presence of the first class of Presidential Fellows and reminded the faculty that the deadline for nominations for the second class was February 6, 2008. Each program may nominate three candidates, of whom two must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

The process of removing disparities for students in our joint programs with the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences of UMDNJ has been progressing. A common admissions site and data base is in place and work will begin shortly on a common registration process and data base. A third team will address more substantive academic issues in the Spring.

Our students brought in \$1.7 million in external fellowships and awards, an amount that is almost double what it was a few years ago. Thanks and congratulations all around to the students, their advisors, and the Center for Graduate Student External Support.

The CASTL program, headed by Associate Dean Bender, has been a big success, with great participation and real steps toward improved teaching based on knowledge of learning. It has offered professional development courses and the first offering of College Teaching II.

The awards to distinguished alumni will be made on March 7 at the now traditional reception and dinner. The awardees this year are:

For Distinguished Accomplishments

Biological Sciences

Our own Bruce Clark, Plant Pathology, Rutgers

Humanities

Peggy Phelan, Literatures in English, Stanford

Mathematical & Physical Sciences and Engineering

Paul Lioy, Environmental Sciences, UMDNJ

Social and Behavioral Sciences

Concetta Stewart, Communication, Information and Library Studies,
Temple

The Early Career Award will go to Vladimir Aksyuk, a physics alumnus now at Alcatel-Lucent, and the Lifetime Achievement Award will go to Kelly Brownell, a psychology alumnus from Yale who is well known for his work on obesity.

Academic Analytics, which rates doctoral programs by faculty productivity, found 18 of our programs to be in the top 10 in their respective fields and Rutgers-New Brunswick to be in the top 25 in several broad fields of study. We are told that a recalculation of their numbers has actually improved our standing, but those data have not yet been posted.

The publication of data and ratings of doctoral programs by the National Research Council are now promised for late Spring.

Search for Dean of the Graduate School:

Dean Kukor, chair of the search committee, announced that 20 candidates had been identified so far that the search was in an early stage. The committee wants someone who is both a scholar and a manager. The search will move to its “public phase” in March or April.

Approved Actions of the Executive Council:

New Courses

Articulated Bachelor’s/Master’s Degree Programs in Food and Business

Economics and in Spanish

Certificate in Cinema Studies

Revisions to the MAT in French

Report on Graduate Admissions: (Ms. Costa)

Applications are up and admits coming are up, but there is also an increase in offers of admission declined. The admissions office will be asking students who decline where they have chosen to attend.

Learning Goals and Assessments:

The Executive Council has approved general statements of learning goals and methods of assessment for the Ph.D. and for master’s degrees. These are expected to be dynamic documents. The faculty approved these documents.

Templates for the use of individual programs have also been prepared. These will be distributed. The programs are expected to flesh out the content aspects of these statements of learning goals.

Report of Associate Dean Bender:

The processes for electronically transmitted dissertations are now in place and all dissertations are now required to use them. It has however proved to be a time-consuming process because of the number of iterations required to bring some students into compliance. As a result, the deadline for submission for the May degree has been moved up to April 15.

Commencement will be May 21 at 1:30 on the Mall. All are encouraged to come.

Mission of the Graduate School-New Brunswick:

The statement of mission, as approved by the Executive Council, was approved.

New Business:

Professor Cotter moved a resolution, adapted from one passed by the Executive Council, urging the creation of a Senate committee that will deal with graduate education. Approved.

**Resolution in Support of a Senate Committee
on Graduate and Professional Education**

Whereas, graduate and professional education is a central part of the mission of Rutgers as a research university, and

Whereas, there is currently no standing committee of the Rutgers University Senate with a major focus of issues unique to graduate and professional education,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Executive Council of the Graduate School – New Brunswick urges the University Senate to establish a Committee on Graduate and Professional Education.

The meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.