

Minutes of the Graduate Faculty Meeting April 26, 2007

Present: Susan Albin, Eric Allender, Andrea Baldi, Haim Baruh, Nicholas Belkin, Barbara Bender, Sanjib Bhuyan, Anthony Broccoli, Gretchen Chapman, Jolie A. Cizewski, Wendie Cohick, Linda Costa, Martha Cotter, Teresa M. Delcorso, Manoranjan Dutta, Paul Ehrlich, Evelyn Erenrich, Henry B. John-Alder, Shamir Khan, Lisa Klein, John Kolassa, Michael J. Leibowitz, Kristen Lester, Charles Martin, Peter Morin, Fernando Muzzio, Damaris M. Otero-Torres, David Pickens, Loren Runnels, Michael Saks, Derek Schilling, Mary Ann Schultz, Matthew Stone, Carl Swisher, Bruce Tesar, Dietrich Tschanz, Ching-I Tu, Andrew Vershon, Harvey Waterman And Nathan Yee

The minutes of the meeting of December 13, 2006 were approved.

Report of the Acting Dean

Dean Cizewski reported that of the ten new Presidential fellows seven will be in the Graduate School-New Brunswick.

In the aftermath of the shootings at Virginia Tech, Rutgers has reviewed its policies: we have good campus resources in the event of such an emergency here and Associate Dean Bender has been working with others on some improvements. Anyone with questions or concerns should contact Dean Bender.

Due to recent budget woes, stipends did not increase this year and there has been some squeeze on professional services, but most programs continue as before. In particular, we anticipate that insurance coverage for fellows will continue with funds from Vice President Furmanski.

Four faculty members and seven graduate students have contributed to our CASTL program for future faculty members, which focuses on the scholarship of learning and teaching.

We have submitted a proposal for funding from the Council of Graduate Schools' Ph.D. Completion Project, whereby we seek measures that will improve completion rates of our doctoral students. We already participate in this project as unfunded partners and eleven of our programs are involved.

Dean Cizewski reminded the faculty that the annual awards reception would begin at 4:30 at the Zimmerli Museum.

Report on Graduate Admissions

Acting Director Linda Costa announced that the application fee will rise to \$60 effective June 1. This is in line with the fees imposed by our competitors.

Electronic letters of recommendation have been possible since November 1 and 45% of applicants have used this facility.

The WebNow application will link paper scans to the decision screens in the future, so programs will not have to move back and forth between them.

James Delacruz has visited diversity fairs in California and New Jersey in our ongoing effort to maintain and increase the diversity of our student body.

Applications are up 8.4%, offers of admission are up 18.3% and those who have notified us that they are coming up 0.2%

A Graduate Admissions Advisory Committee is being formed.

Professor Dutta rose to express concern about the impact of the large percentage of foreign students and to suggest the possibility of a limit. Dean Cizewski replied that we need both a larger pool of U.S. students and a strong pool of international students. We cannot set arbitrary limits, but we are acutely aware of the lack of strong U.S. applicants in certain fields. We have made particular efforts to recruit among the growing pool of U.S. students from traditionally under-represented backgrounds, and also sponsor RISE and support the Science Bus, and various national consortia addressing this issue.

Actions of the Executive Council

The recommended new courses were approved.

The proposed name change from Animal Sciences to Endocrinology and Animal Biosciences was approved.

The new M.A.T. in Chinese was approved.

The proposed creation of a new degree, Master of Engineering, provoked some discussion with regard to the precedent it sets of having the Graduate School offer a professional degree and with regard to the implications for other professional degrees now offered by the professional schools. Deans Cizewski and Waterman and Professors Baruh and Muzzio responded, variously, that there was no intent to deny the professional schools the right to offer professional degrees, but that in this case it was decided, largely on pragmatic grounds, that the School of Engineering would prefer that this be done by the Graduate School-New Brunswick. The services provided will be the same as those already provided to the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees offered in engineering fields. The proposal was approved.

The M.E. option in Pharmaceutical Engineering and Science was then approved.

The proposed name change from Ceramic and Materials Science and Engineering to Materials Science and Engineering was approved.

The proposed new option in Supply Chain and Logistics Engineering in the program in Industrial and Systems Engineering was approved.

The Graduate School will facilitate admission for Rutgers undergraduates who enter Master's programs by waiving scores and letters and acquiring other information from their undergraduate records, when recommended by program directors.

The new rules requiring students beyond 7 years to apply for extensions will be implemented this Spring for the first time.

The new mechanism for allowing *de facto* full-time students to become officially full-time is in process. The changes in the university's data systems are expected to take place this summer.

Electronic Theses and Dissertations

We have been accepting electronically transmitted theses and dissertations this Spring without difficulty. They will be required for the October degree date.

Commencement

Those marching must line up at 12:30 on the 16th. All faculty are encouraged to march with the Graduate School at University Commencement, to celebrate the school's degree recipients.

Goals, Assessments, and Evaluations

Dean Cizewski asked Dean Robert Goodman of SEBS to speak to this issue. Dean Goodman is chair of the Executive Committee preparing for the Middle States re-accreditation of Rutgers. Dean Goodman explained that setting goals and establishing assessments has been made urgent by the coming accreditation visit by Middle States, although it is also intrinsically important and topical. The focus is currently on undergraduate learning goals and assessments, but attention to graduate programs will follow. There are six working groups as part of the re-accreditation process, with a focus on the enrichment of undergraduate education by its presence in a research university. A visit by the site team chair is expected in October and the whole team next March. This process has advantages for us: it is an opportunity for introspection and review and we can use it to improve what we do. It is clearly better that we do this than have it imposed from Washington. We must all, then, do our best, for ourselves and in the national interest.

Dean Cizewski noted that a draft statement has been discussed by the Executive Council and will come to the faculty in the Fall. Every program will need to do the same; we expect to provide a template for that purpose.

The meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.