

Academic Policy Council Minutes

October 5, 2011

11:30 a.m. 429 Library West

Attendees:

Ben Dunn, Joe Glover, Nancy Poehlmann, Nereyda Clark, David Julian, Cynthia Morton, Carol Murphy, Nina Caputo, Maria Rogal and Sue Alvers.

Call to Order

Nancy Poehlmann, co-chair, called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m.

Graduate Program Renewal Discussion

Drs. Joe Glover and Ben Dunn were invited to familiarize members of the Council with the issues that define graduate programs and how they are administered in colleges and schools around the University. The renewal will be a transparent process. Each department will do a self-examination of their doctoral programs by evaluating how each measures up to what is considered an excellent doctoral program. If the department finds that the doctoral program has some deficiencies, the department should explain its plan for improvement. This exercise is not to evaluate the department or its research productivity but is a way to look at the doctoral experience from the student's point of view. Some suggested topics to examine are:

- Up-to-date recruiting and enrollment data
- Student retention
- How many Ph.D. degrees were produced and how long did it take?
- How many faculty have Doctoral Research Status?
- Stipend levels
- Mentoring Plans
 - What is the role of primary student mentor?
 - What is the role of members of the doctoral thesis committee
- Career development plans
- How does the department communicate its expectations and standards to new graduates?

After completing the self-examination, the departments will have a chance to discuss its findings with the college. The college will then forward the report to the Provost's Office where a campus-wide committee will review each document and advise the President, Provost and the Dean of the Graduate School. A long discussion ensued with several council members concerned about the transparency of the process and the lack of representation from the Humanities on the campus-wide committee. The APC is scheduled to lead a topical discussion on Graduate Program Renewal at the next Faculty Senate meeting on October 20, 2011.

September Minutes were approved.

Due to the co-chairs' scheduling conflict, Carol Murphy volunteered to give a brief summary of this meeting to the Steering Committee tomorrow.

Maria Rogal was selected as the SACS Committee Representative.

Meeting adjourned at 1:26 p.m.