

FACULTY SENATE
Tuesday, December 8, 2015
3:30 – 5:15 pm
Senate Chamber, Old Capitol

MINUTES

- Senators Present: P. Abbas, M. Adamek, B. Ayati, J. Bates, C. Benson, S. Campo, J. Colgan, R. Curto, M. Dailey, F. Durham, B. Eckstein, A. Ersig, M. Foley Nicpon, C. Fox, T. Gallanis, E. Gillan, Z. Jin, A. Kwitek, M. Lehan Mackin, T. Mabry, A. Merino, K. Messingham, P. Muhly, J. Murry, M. Nikolas, L. Plakans, L. Ponto, E. Prussing, Y. Sato, J. Selby, C. Sponsler, L. Storrs, K. Tachau, C. Thomas, B. Thompson, T. Treat, H. Udaykumar, S. Vigmostad, S. Vos, J. Wang, J. Wilcox, D. Wilder, P. Windschitl.
- Officers Present: C. Bohannan, P. Snyder, T. Vaughn.
- Officer Excused: A. Thomas.
- Senators Excused: S. Ali, P. Brophy, D. Caplan, S. Daack-Hirsch, D. Dawson, J. Foote, T. Havens, J. Kolker, G. Lee, K. Light-McGroary, P. Romitti, G. Ryan, L. Segre, M. Voigt, D. Wurster, J. Yockey.
- Senators Absent: S. Baker, J. Buatti, G. Buettner, A. Gerke, K. Glenn, J. Klesney-Tait, A. Lee, D. Macfarlane, W. Maury, J. Paulsen, W. Schmidt, D. Segaloff, S. Seibert, T. Yahr.
- Guests: J. Bolkcom (Senator), J. Brown (Graduate College), L. Crooks (Graduate College), B. Dvorsky (Senator), L. Glass (Governmental Relations Committee), D. Jacoby (Representative), A. Jung (Governmental Relations Committee), B. Kaufmann (Representative), J. Keller (Graduate College), K. Kinney (Senator), K. Kregel (Office of the Provost), M. Mascher (Representative), J. Menninger (Emeritus Faculty Council), S. Stutsman (Representative), L. Zaper (Faculty Senate Office).

- I. Call to Order – President Bohannan called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm.
- II. Approvals
 - A. Meeting Agenda – President Bohannan noted that one more item for approval had been added to the agenda since it was distributed. Professor Tachau moved and Professor Gallanis seconded that the revised agenda be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

- B. Faculty Senate Minutes (October 27, 2015 and November 10, 2015) – Professor Wilder moved and Professor Campo seconded that the minutes be approved. The motion carried unanimously.
- C. Committee Appointments (Tom Vaughn, Chair, Committee on Committees)
- Jerry Anthony (Urban & Regional Planning) to fill the unexpired term of Barbara Mooney (Art and Art History) on the Campus Planning Committee, 2015-16
 - Daniel Katz (Surgery) to fill the unexpired term of Victoria Sharp (Urology) on the Funded Retirement and Insurance Committee, 2015-17
 - Tim Havens (Communication Studies) to fill the unexpired term of Claire Fox (English) on the Faculty Council, 2015-16
 - Paul Abbas (Communication Sciences & Disorders) to replace Paul Muhly (Mathematics) on the Faculty Council, Spring 2016
 - Dale E. Wurster (Pharmacy) to fill the unexpired term of Daryl Murry (Pharmacy) on the Faculty Senate, 2015-17
 - Tong Li (Mathematics) to replace Teresa Treat (Psychological & Brain Sciences) on the Faculty Senate, Spring 2016
 - Bruce Ayati (Mathematics) to replace Paul Muhly (Mathematics) on the Faculty Senate, Spring 2016

Professor Gallanis moved and Professor Campo seconded that the appointments be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

- D. Faculty Senate Elections 2016 Vacancy Tally – President Bohannon indicated that approval of this document allows the Senate to move forward with its elections. Professor Treat moved and Professor Gillan seconded that the vacancy tally be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

President Bohannon went on to note that an email request had recently gone out to all faculty members soliciting suggestions regarding how to advance the university through strategic initiatives. President Harreld had requested that the shared governance leadership contact their constituencies and encourage them to submit ideas. Faculty members can submit their suggestions via an online form on the Faculty Senate website, <http://www.uiowa.edu/facultysenate/forms/strategic-priority-recommendations>.

Professor Tachau commented that in the past there have been strategic planning committees formed as part of a transparent process to review and recommend suggestions. She asked if the university was about to enter another such process. President Bohannon responded that, while she did not know the details of the intended process, she anticipated that similar committees would eventually be formed.

III. New Business

- *Ph.D. Review Project Update (Dean John Keller, Graduate College)*

Dean Keller explained that the university's doctoral programs have undergone periodic reviews for many years. The National Research Council reviewed the UI programs back in the mid 1990's and again in the early 2000's. This latter review took a long time to come to completion. Around this same time, Provost Wallace Loh had requested that a task force conduct a comprehensive evaluation of UI graduate programs, as part of the university's strategic planning process. This Task Force on Graduate Education submitted its report in February 2010. The Task Force was composed of twenty-one members, representing all the

colleges. All members of the Task Force reviewed all of the graduate programs. One of the strengths of the 2010 report was a series of recommendations relating to funding efforts, the status and positioning of inter-disciplinary programs, and recruitment and admissions in our efforts to reach our diversity goals. From this report emerged the basic tenets of graduate education as they relate to student success; these tenets have been incorporated into the UI Strategic Plan for 2010-2016: *supporting curricular innovations that promote quality & timely degree completion; aligning program enrollments, resources, & market demand for graduates; linking funding sources to program quality, centrality, & student success; strengthening graduate education through realignments to promote intellectual synergies & ensuring critical mass for quality & sustainability; and enhancing career advising and improving placement in academic & nonacademic environments.* As a result of the Task Force's report, some changes were made in graduate education, including the *creation of new programs and the closure of others; revision and restructuring of graduate programs across many disciplines; changes in tuition and fellowship programs; improved data practices; and enhanced strategic communication.*

Dean Keller directed the group's attention to a chart showing that around 2010 the number of graduate students receiving their degrees began to exceed the number of graduate students admitted to programs. This trend is a result of various policies and practices adopted since 2003. These efforts include a continuous registration policy, the COGS tuition scholarship which is now at 100% tuition, the elimination of the block allocation program (because it was found to be not as uniformly effective across campus as intended), and the creation of strategic initiative funds and expansion of fellowship programs.

Dean Keller then spoke about the current state of graduate education, five years after the Task Force report. He reminded the group that in March he had given an address about the direction of graduate education locally and nationally. He had concluded that presentation by indicating that the Graduate College's efforts are directed toward creating successful students who will in turn create distinctive programs. Dean Keller noted that the UI is a member of the invitation-only Association of American Universities (AAU). For years, graduate college deans of AAU institutions were frustrated that their university presidents focused heavily on undergraduate programs. Now, however, attention is beginning to shift towards graduate programs. Graduate deans have been instructed to look at metrics that are important in determining AAU status and positioning within that group. A working group of graduate deans is now examining a range of issues, including admissions practices, diversity, funding, time to degree, and outcomes.

The Graduate College is in the midst of preparing a self-study, to be submitted to the Provost next week in anticipation of a review of the College in the near future. Last spring, Provost Butler also asked the College to undertake a review of the university's graduate programs. The collegiate associate deans for graduate studies then formulated plans for how to move forward with a review process. The review is envisioned as a progress report on developments within the past five years. The associate deans will serve as an oversight committee for the process. Faculty members have been invited to serve on disciplinary subcommittees to evaluate programs within disciplinary groups; these groups include arts and humanities, biological and biomedical

sciences, health sciences, physical and mathematical sciences, and social sciences. Where overlap exists, the groups will intersect with each other when appropriate. The Graduate College has provided updated information on time to degree, percent completion, and placement data for individual programs. Departments have produced three-page reports on their progress over the last five years. Work in the disciplinary subcommittees is underway and the subcommittees will report back to the oversight committee at the end of January. The report will consist of reviews of all of the graduate programs plus recommendations on how to improve. Dean Keller, Associate Dean Larsen, and the collegiate associate deans will together produce a report to be reviewed with the Graduate Council. The Council is made up of faculty members appointed from every college, in addition to four students from the Graduate Student Senate representing the four broad disciplinary groups. The students are gathering input from their colleagues in programs throughout the university to be incorporated into the final report that will go to the Provost in mid-March. The Graduate College will then likely work with the collegiate deans to implement the recommendations as appropriate. Dean Keller stressed that he views this effort as a progress report that will show us opportunities and best practices for moving graduate education forward at UI.

Professor Gallanis noted the importance of the metrics referred to by Dean Keller, but commented that there were other significant metrics, as well, such as the national and international reputations of our graduate programs, the number of faculty members elected into prestigious academic societies, faculty books published by leading presses, etc. The quality of our graduate programs is reflected in these statistics, too, not just in student statistics. Dean Keller responded that the programs have the opportunity to describe faculty accomplishments, but that this report focuses on graduate programs themselves. The success of graduate faculty members and the status and reputation of the graduate faculty, while important and desirable, do not necessarily translate into success educating graduate students. Professor Wilder asked how well the goals and policies of the Board of Regents harmonize with the goals and policies of the AAU. Dean Keller commented that the AAU is starting to focus on aspects of graduate education in which the Board of Regents may also take an interest, such as time to degree and completion rate. Time to degree has greatly improved over the past five years. The average completion rate for all doctoral programs is a little above 60%, with some programs above 90% and others just over 30%. The Board may well question the quality and efficiency of a program that can only graduate around 30% of its students.

Professor Tachau observed that there appears to have been a drastic drop in the number of graduate students admitted each year (from the chart Dean Keller had displayed earlier). She asked if AAU requires a certain number of graduate students or graduate programs for membership. Dean Keller responded that the AAU does not establish guidelines such as these, but that it might rank universities in relation to peers in particular categories. He went on to comment that there is no national accreditation organization for graduate education. There are some colleges and programs that are accredited, however, and they must meet a certain set of standards. UI has about 50 graduate programs that are accredited by various organizations; most of those programs are doing well. The national conversation about graduate education is beginning to consider programs that are not overseen by an accrediting organization in light of these types of standards.

President Bohannon asked if the report would be made public and also if the report would make recommendations or just present data. Dean Keller responded that there would be recommendations, but it is up to the Provost whether to make the report public. Professor Wilder observed that students may enter College of Engineering graduate programs intending to pursue a doctorate, but then leave programs early with masters degrees when they realize that they can obtain high-paying jobs in industry at that point. He asked if programs would be penalized for doctoral students who leave after obtaining masters degrees. Dean Keller responded that the report would look carefully at program data in order to draw accurate conclusions. A program's overall degree completion rate would still be high in the case that Professor Wilder described.

- *Executive Session: Legislative Delegation*

Professor Gallanis moved and Professor Daack-Hirsch seconded that the Senate move into closed session but allow the members of the Faculty Senate's Governmental Relations Committee to remain. The motion carried unanimously.

The Senators engaged in discussion with local legislators regarding a variety of issues, including the upcoming legislative session.

Professor Campo moved and Professor Gillan seconded that the Senate move out of closed session. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. From the Floor – There were no items from the floor.

V. Announcements

- The annual Faculty Senate/Iowa City Area Chamber of Commerce reception for local legislators will be held on Thursday, December 10, 4:00-5:30 pm, in the rotunda of the Old Capitol.
- The next Faculty Council meeting will be Tuesday, January 26, 3:30-5:15 pm, University Capitol Centre 2390.
- The next Faculty Senate meeting will be Tuesday, February 16, 3:30 – 5:15 pm, Senate Chamber, Old Capitol.

VI. Adjournment – Professor Muhly moved and Professor Wilcox seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously. President Bohannon adjourned the meeting at 5:25 pm.