

Graduate Program Directors And Chairs Meeting
August 27, 2008
12:00 Noon – Russell Union, Room 2047

Present: Dr. Doug Thomson (CLASS), Dr. Greg Harwood (CLASS), Dr. Michael Moore (COE), Mrs. Susan Aberson (COE), Dr. Deborah Thomas (COE), Dr. Cordelia Zinskie (COE), Dr. Grigory Dmitriyev (COE), Dr. Eric Kartchner (CLASS), Dr. Doralina Martinez-Conde (CLASS), Dr. David Dudley (CLASS), Dr. John Murray (CLASS), Dr. Bill Allison (CLASS), Dr. Jon Bryant (CLASS), Mrs. Susan Davies (Admissions), Dr. Tom Case (CIT), Dr. Steve Vives (COST), Dr. Bruce Schulte (COST), Dr. Kari Fitzmorris (JPHCOPH), Dr. James Stephens (JPHCOPH), Dr. Lynn Woodhouse (JPHCOPH), Dr. Cassandra Arroyo (JPHCOPH), Dr. Yan Wu (COST), Dr. Brenda Marina (COE), Dr. Terry Diamanduros (COE), Dr. Barbara Mallory (COE), Dr. Leon Spencer (COE), Dr. Tim Cairney (COBA), Dr. Donna Hodnicki (CHHS), Dr. Onyile Onyile (CLASS), Dr. John Brown (COBA), Dr. Kathy Hubbard (CLASS), Dr. Peggy Hargis (CLASS)

1. The Program Directors and Chairs each introduced themselves to the group.
2. Changes Discussed:
 - Dr. Mack announced that the minutes would only include those who attended; those who do not attend will no longer be included.
 - Department Chairs (per their request) have been invited to the meetings this year. The Program Directors were asked if anyone objected to this, and no one objected.
3. Group Exercise:
 - Dr. Mack created 13 posters that summarized the comments from the Program Directors' Workshop on August 15th and Department Chairs' Workshop on July 10th. Attendees were asked to place colored dots on the issues that each person felt was most important. Red dots indicated that the concerns warrant immediate resolution regardless of budget constraints. Blue dots indicated that the concern should be addressed once the budget constraints are lifted. Attendees were given 25 minutes to decide where to place their dots.
4. Blueprint Discussion:
 - The Graduate Committee has appointed a subcommittee that will revise and improve the current Blueprint for Graduate Education. Dr. Mack discussed the tone of the Blueprint. He assured the Graduate Committee that any negative tone was unintentional. He also apologized for the tone and hopes that the Graduate Committee will improve the Blueprint. He would like the Program Directors and Department Chairs to have input as well. The group decided that they would like to have input into the revised

Blueprint before the subcommittee brings it back to the Graduate Committee for a vote.

- Dr. Mack recognized and thanked Dr. John Murray for his page-by-page review and input on the Blueprint. It was very helpful!
- Dr. Zinskie was concerned with the lack of representation of COE on the subcommittee revising the Blueprint. Dr. Mack suggested that the colleges who were concerned with representation could work through their Graduate Committee representative to email Dr. Jill Lockwood, Chair of the Graduate Committee. It would be her decision.
- Dr. Moore asked what had been done with the suggestions made by last year's Graduate Committee concerning the Blueprint. Dr. Mack stated that they are with Dr. Lockwood.
- There was question among the group as to whether only the wording would be changed or perhaps the content as well. Dr. Mack said that both will likely be changed, but to keep in mind that content that may be threatening to some may be agreeable to another. The Blueprint will be a document that must be balanced and some compromise will have to occur.

5. Benefits of Graduate Education –

- Dr. Mack spoke briefly about the importance and benefits of graduate education to the University, the State, and the Region. He stated that our focus should be on quality graduate programs and on producing trained individuals in areas that our region is in need.

6. Quality Programs: Online vs. Face-to-Face –

- Dr. Mack stated each faculty member chooses how to teach her or his class, such as a lecture format, lab format, recitation session, number and kind of assignments and exams, etc. This is the faculty member's choice. It is also the choice of each faculty member how to teach the class, such as delivering it face-to-face, in a blended format, or online. Dr. Mack recommended that we should concentrate less on the method of delivery chosen and more on maintaining the quality of graduate programs regardless of how the course or program is taught. Dr. Mack reiterated his belief that emphasizing quality is the single most important characteristic of a good graduate program, regardless of how it is delivered. Having a quality graduate program makes recruiting new students easier, and also produces satisfied faculty and alumni.

- Dr. Diamanduros asked how quality plays into the pressure for increased enrollment without an increase in faculty. Dr. Mack said that there are measures that are being taken to help with this issue.

7. Action Steps –

- The results from this meeting's group exercise will be compiled and distributed. In our next meeting, the group will begin identifying ways in which the issues might be resolved.
- COGS will distribute a spreadsheet containing contact information for each program director and chair.