

# Program Directors Meeting

September 24, 2008

12:00 Noon – Russell Union, Room 2047

**Present:** Mrs. Deborah Champion (COL); Mrs. Dawn Lipker (Admissions); Mrs. Susan Aberson (COE); Dr. Terry Diamanduros (COE); Dr. Donna Hodnicki (CHHS); Dr. Onyile Onyile (CLASS); Dr. Jonathan Bryant (CLASS); Dr. Tim Cairney (COBA); Dr. David Dudley (CLASS); Dr. Greg Harwood (CLASS); Dr. John Murray (CLASS); Dr. Amy Heaston (VPAA); Dr. Bill Allison (CLASS); Dr. Eric Kartchner (CLASS); Dr. Doralina Martinez-Conde (CLASS); Dr. Carolyn Woodhouse (JPHCOPH); Dr. Cassandra Arroyo (JPHCOPH); Dr. Grigory Dmitriyev (COE); Dr. Deborah Thomas (COE); Dr. Bruce Schulte (COST); Dr. Stephen Vives (COST); Dr. Judi Repman (COE); Dr. Cordelia Zinskie (COE); Dr. Yan Wu (COST); Dr. Tom Case (CIT); Dr. Michael Moore (COE); Dr. John Diebolt (COGS)

## 1. List of Contacts:

- Dr. Diebolt distributed the list of all those (Program Directors, Coordinators, etc.) who regularly deal with graduate education. He asked that if corrections need to be made, they be emailed to him so the list can be finalized and emailed early next week.

## 2. Announcements:

- **October 9<sup>th</sup>** will be an Open House for all Graduate students. This will be a joint event with the College of Graduate Studies and the Office of Research Services and Sponsored Programs. Open House will be held from 2:00 PM – 6:30 PM in Veazey Hall, Room 2001C. T-shirts, food, and other goodies will be given to all who attend.
- Graduate Appreciation Week will be held this year during the week of **February 16 – 20**. The symposium this year will be a two-day event, on Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Dr. Mack thanked everyone for his or her contribution to the Hobson's Connect letters and program descriptions. He announced that he and Dr. Diebolt would be attending an 8-day Hobson's training session beginning this week. He will keep everyone updated on this new software.

## 3. Issues:

- GIL Express suspension:
  - It was suggested that all concerns be addressed by email and sent to Dean Bede Mitchell so that he can forward the concerns to the appropriate person.
  - There was a question whether, if we are able to regain access to GIL Express, if we will still be able to access all information that we have previously been able, or whether certain journals would no longer be accessible. Dr. Bryant stated that it would be difficult

to recruit students and conduct research without adequate resources.

- *NOTE: USG listened and has temporarily rescinded the suspension of GIL Express.*
- Dr. Mack announced there was a concern from one person expressed about the Blueprint revisions, the formatting, etc. Dr. Mack read from the Graduate Committee's meeting minutes, where the Committee indicated that the formatting would remain the same. There is a subcommittee within the University Graduate Committee that is working on the revisions. Dr. Mack asked that all questions, concerns, and suggestions be addressed to the Graduate Committee Chair, Dr. Jill Lockwood. Dr. Dudley inquired as to the timetable for completion of the Blueprint revisions. Dr. Mack said that the original deadline was November, but that the committee might complete its task sooner than that.
- Dr. Mack distributed a printout of a presentation by Dr. Janet Weiss, Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Michigan. The document describes ways of assessing quality in graduate degree programs. The University of Michigan asked each graduate program to define their own metrics to be used in assessing program quality; Dr. Mack suggested that this would be good for us to think about, perhaps in lieu of the program assessment concepts in the Blueprint.
- Electronic Theses and Dissertations
  - Dr. Mack said that the Graduate Committee asked him to prepare a draft of ETD guidelines that would be more flexible than the current ones. He will present this to the Graduate Committee for their consideration at one of the next meetings.
  - Dr. Cairney agreed, asking why we would consider limiting the format, since some student want to add media presentations, etc.
  - Dr. Diebolt stated that we want to make the guidelines as flexible as possible since we are no longer restricted to the paper theses and dissertations.
  - Dr. Schulte suggested that the consistency is fine, but that we should make certain that the students follow the professional standard for their particular field.
  - Dr. Hodnicki asked if we should just work on changes for the "exceptions" since the old format seemed to work for most students.
  - There was discussion about how a student would embed a movie into a PDF file, the amount of space that is required, and what space limitations are involved. Dr. Murray suggested that we check with the library staff to be certain of the storage capacity, etc.

- Dr. Mack stated that the main goal of this will be to maintain quality while providing the students increased flexibility.

#### 4. **Compilation of Last Months Exercise (Red dots/Blue dots):**

- Dr. Mack distributed the results from last months exercise (“What can the college of graduate student do to make your life easier”) and asked everyone to concentrate on page 1 results. He suggested that the group form committees to discuss and offer solutions to assigned issues.
  - The group decided to form two committees:
    - “Quality vs. Quantity.” Dr. Judith Repman, Dr. Terri Diamanduros, Dr. Tim Cairney, and Dr. Donna Hodnicki volunteered to be on this committee.
    - “Role & Rewards” Dr. David Dudley, Dr. Jonathan Bryant, Dr. James Stephens, Dr. John Murray, and Dr. Maggie LaMontagne (tentative) volunteered.
  - The issue of summer offerings was discussed. Dr. Amy Heaston stated that this is an item to be discussed at Faculty Senate. It was decided that the group would delay creating a committee on this issue and wait to see what the other avenues will do to address this concern.
  - There was discussion concerning the issue of securing more Graduate Assistantships. Dr. Arroyo suggested that grant writing is essential to all departments wishing to secure more positions. Dr. Bryant said that the ability to offer GA positions is an essential aspect in recruiting students. If often seals the deal for those who are still deciding on whether to attend GSU or another institution. Dr. Mack advised the group that it is unlikely that Georgia Southern would be financially able to create more state-funded GA positions in times of budget reductions. Dr. Arroyo asked why we offer out-of-country students tuition waiver, but not out-of-state students. Dr. Mack suggested that these waivers are not really free, and that in years of budget cuts, those tuition dollars help to offset the budget reduction. He said that having more scholarships would be beneficial in this situation, and that he is working to increase the number of graduate scholarships. Dr. Kartchner offered the suggestion of creating Teaching Assistants, and use the tuition generated from students in the course they teach to be used to pay them. Dr. Case said that we are penalizing out-of-state students for where they grew up. If we want to increase the number of students at the university, we need to offer waivers to these students, or offer them in-state tuition rates. *It is very clear that the group believes that increasing the number of Graduate Assistantships should be a University priority.*
5. The meeting was adjourned. The discussion of the issues identified in last month’s meeting will be continued at next month’s meeting.