

## GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

September 9, 2008

The Graduate Council met Tuesday, September 9, 2008, in the MSC Boardroom at 3:00 p.m. with Dean Allan D. Headley presiding. Members present were: Dr. Ken Alford, Dr. Harry Fullwood, Dr. John Humphreys, Dr. Ben Jang, Dr. Jeff Kopachena, Dr. Sharon Kowalsky, Dr. Larry Watson for Dr. Linda Openshaw, Dr. Chester Robinson, Dr. Derek Royal, Dr. Jon Travis, Dr. Janet Walker, and Dr. Dayle Yeager. Members absent were: Dr. John Hanners and Dr. Steven Shwiff. Dr. Mary Beth Sampson, Interim Vice Chair, was also in attendance. Graduate School staff members that joined the Council for refreshments and introductions were: Ms. Natalie Henderson, Ms. Amy Sims, Ms. Vicky Turner, and Ms. Carley Tucker.

President Dan Jones addressed the Council. Dr. Jones began by stating that he was impressed with the number of graduate students and the quality of our graduate programs; healthy graduate programs are important to a university. He stated that it is important to make good decisions on hiring new faculty and that it is critical that we create a supportive environment for faculty. Discussions between the President and the Council concerned the need for a facility in the Dallas area, the need for adequate release time for faculty to be involved in scholarly activities and that it should be attached to some measurable outcome, and the need for rigorous mid-tenure reviews with lots of feedback.

Dean Headley thanked Dr. Jon Travis for his service to the Graduate School and as Vice Chair of the Graduate Council. He announced that Dr. Mary Beth Sampson has accepted the position of Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies and Research to begin January 1, 2009. She has been appointed Interim Vice Chair of the Graduate Council for Fall 2008.

Dr. Headley discussed his philosophy of graduate education and mentioned that the Office of Graduate Studies should provide a welcoming, and customer friendly environment for our faculty and students. The professional development of our students to meet their career goals is important to us and we have various programs to assist in their professional development. Assisting the faculty in their recruiting efforts and producing a quality degree for our students are only a few of the ways that we assist our faculty.

Student travel funds are available for graduate students presenting at national conferences.

The base pay for graduate assistants remains the same; however, departments are able to offer stipends for master's graduate assistants from \$8,000-\$14,000 and doctoral graduate assistants from \$10,000 – \$16,000. The additional amount over the base amount can be supported by departmental research funds or other departmental funds. An additional \$100,000 in funds has been divided among the colleges to assist in allowing departments to hire additional GAs or to pay their GAs at a higher rate.

To assist departments to recruit quality students, the Graduate School is again providing matching funds for department graduate recruitment activities. The Lafferty and Pathways scholarships are available to help recruit quality graduate students. The Graduate endowment fund has been vested and Council members were encouraged to contribute to the fund.

Dr. Headley presented information on the Characteristics of Texas Public Doctoral Programs developed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board *Graduate Education Advisory Committee*. The characteristics are the number of degrees per year, graduation rates, average time to degree, employment profile (in field within one year of graduation), admissions criteria, percentage full-time students (FTS) with financial support, average financial support provided, student-core faculty ratio and core faculty publications. Data for each of our doctoral programs representing these characteristics will need to be easily available to the public.

The Federation of North Texas Area Universities is currently being restructured to provide more money for the programs. There will not be a Fall Seminar this year.

#### Action Items

The minutes from the last Graduate Council, April 29, 2008, were approved.

Committee chairs gave a brief report on their respective committee

Committee on Administration (Jon Travis)

Committee on Curriculum (Dayle Yeager for John Hanners)

Committee on Faculty, Research & Instruction (Derek Royal)

#### Information Items

Pathways Student Research Symposium at A&M-Commerce, November 7-8, 2008. October 19<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for abstracts and registration for students, faculty, and judges. For additional information visit <http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/gradschool/Pathways/>. Registration will be paid for A&M-Commerce faculty and students participating in this event.

Pathways Junior Faculty Workshop at A&M-Commerce, November 7, 2008

#### ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned at 4:00.

Louise Skinner

Secretary to the Graduate Council