

GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES **September 11, 2007**

The Graduate Council met Tuesday, September 11, 2007, in the MSC Boardroom at 3:00 p.m. with Dean Allan D. Headley presiding. Members present were: Dr. Ken Alford, Dr. John Hanners, Dr. Jeff Kopachena, Dr. Linda Openshaw, Dr. Derek Royal, Dr. Mary Beth Sampson, Dr. Janet Walker, and Dr. Dayle Yeager. Members absent were: Dr. Hasan Coskun, Dr. Harry Fullwood, Dr. Ben Jang, Dr. Chris Myers, Dr. Chester Robinson, and Dr. Steven Shwiff. Dr. Jon Travis, Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies & Research was also in attendance.

Graduate School staff joined the Council for a few minutes and introduced themselves to the Council. Graduate Council members introduced themselves.

Dr. Headley addressed the Council and spoke about his philosophy and goals for Graduate Studies and Research. Emphasizing their extensive knowledge of graduate education, he challenged the Graduate Council to make recommendations and to be involved in discussions that will shape graduate education at Texas A&M University-Commerce. He called for healthy debates about issues that affect our graduate programs and mentioned that at times discussion items will be introduced at the Council meetings in order to get feedback for the subcommittees that are considering various charges.

The minutes from the last Graduate Council, May 8, 2007, were approved.

Strategic Plan

Dr. Headley mentioned that the university was involved in the development of a strategic plan and that each academic unit, including Graduate Studies and Research, should present a plan to the Strategic Implementation Committee. He then solicited input on the Strategic Plan that was developed by the staff of the graduate school. It was obvious that the Graduate Council was very interested in the plan based on the involvement of discussion by all members. Regarding maintaining quality in the office staff and work environment, the suggestions included better links to the Graduate School about our services and better communication when a student is admitted. On the issue of expanding programs, improving the quality of our existing programs, and facilitating academic excellence, Council members pointed out that the university should build on our strengths, develop additional graduate certificate programs, expand current doctoral programs to include additional emphases, develop interdisciplinary doctoral program opportunities to interact with faculty across colleges, develop a master's degree in Liberal Studies, review our present method of how thesis/dissertation issues about style and format are dealt with, and determine a better balance between quality and time input from the Graduate School staff. A suggestion was made to add a faculty internship to facilitate this process. Suggestions for increasing graduate enrollment included additional funding for student travel to present their research results at national conferences, faculty participation in ISD's teacher workshops in our service area, and additional help for the office of Marketing, presently under Mr. Randy Jolly, to support the update of graduate brochures.

Issues regarding research included coordination between the Office of Vice President for Advancement and the Graduate School. Other issues include improved faculty support for research active professors, a need for faculty release time and sufficient adjunct funding to cover courses being released by research active professors, more news reports on news worthy research accomplishments, more support while writing a grant, and more recognition of time needed by faculty to write grant proposals, even those not funded.

Information Items

Federation Fall Seminar at Texas A&M University-Commerce, October 5, 2007

Pathways Student Research Symposium at Tarleton State University, November 2-3, 2007

System Junior Faculty Workshop, November 1-2, 2007

ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned at 4:15.

Louise Skinner

Secretary to the Graduate Council