

**THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO
SENATE GRADUATE COMMITTEE**

The Senate Graduate Committee met on Thursday, December 1, 2005, in the Ortega Reading Room, Ortega 335.

Present: **Ron Andrews, Buck Creel, Ann Cunliffe, Mary Ellen Hanson (Chair), ***Mariana Ibáñez, Claudia Isaac, Jim Jacob, Ann Massmann, *David Sanchez, Geoff Shuster, Bruce Thompson, Mary Walker and Amy Wohlert

Excused: Grant Meyer, Elizabeth Noll, Zane Reeves, *Kathleen Sena

Minutes:

Ron Andrews moved approval of the November 17, 2005 minutes; Buck Creel seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Honorary Degree Discussion:

Claudia Isaac reported on the deliberations of the Honorary Degree Committee. There were fifteen nominations submitted, and the HD committee considered them a very strong pool. Isaac stated that the discussion was the most difficult in the three years she has served on the HD committee, and included issues other than the selection of their recommendations. The HD committee did recommend three honorary degree recipients, 2 for the HD in Humane Letters and one for the HD in Letters. The SGC voted on each nomination, approving each.

Isaac noted that the HD committee also discussed the honorary degree process, the number of honorary degrees that can be awarded in an academic year, and the composition of the committee's membership. Isaac and Andrews, SGC members of the HD committee, noted that its membership is composed of equal numbers of academics and non-academics and that the absence of a single academic can have a major impact on voting results when individuals are selected to receive honorary degrees. They recommended that the SGC express their concern to the Faculty Senate, with the suggestion that a "faculty-at-large member" or proxies for absent members be considered as options. The SGC agreed and Chair Hanson will send these recommendations to the Senate Operations Committee.

Curriculum Form A Discussion:

Grant Meyer, chair of curriculum sub-committee, told the Committee that an issue has arisen with the normal processing of curriculum Forms A. The SGC relegated review and approval of curriculum Forms A to Mariana Ibáñez. The newly instituted electronic workflow direct all Forms A to him as chair of the sub-committee. He asked the Committee for their support in directing the Office of the Register to designate Ibáñez as the SGC designee for electronic Forms A. Creel motioned to support Meyer's request; Isaac seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Reinstatement Fee: (ATTACHMENT ONE)

Interim Dean Amy Wohlert introduced draft language for the reinstatement process. Last year the SGC approved a new policy indicating that students who stopped registering for thesis (599) or dissertation (699) hours would be charged a flat fee, and the Committee asked former graduate dean, Teresita Aguilar, to prepare a draft of the process details. As Aguilar left the University, Wohlert picked up the task.

The Committee reviewed the attached draft. They asked that point 4 under “readmission” be added to point 1 and the phrase “including payment of the application fee” be added to the last sentence. Geoff Schuster moved acceptance and inclusion of the new process in the 2006 Catalog. Ann Massmann seconded the motion, which was approved by the Committee.

Reports:**GPSA:**

Buck Creel, GPSA president, told the Committee that the GPSA prepared and has sent a resolution to the OGS Taskforce stating that they strongly endorsed strengthening graduate education at UNM. Creel asked if the SGC recommendation to the Taskforce could be appended to the GPSA Resolution as a show of solidarity. The Committee agreed.

OGS:

Amy Wohlert, interim graduate dean, reported that the reorganization of the scholarship process has been completed.

She told the Committee that a point of contention has come up regarding the HED scholarships for minorities. The legislation indicates that everyone who received said scholarship should also receive a 10-hour paid assistantship, plus tuition and insurance from the student’s program. This regulation has not been consistently followed. She will meet with the Dean’s Council and inform them that their programs must adhere to this part of the legislation.

The NM Scholars (3% monies) awards have been problematical. The legislature funds the program, awarding specific funding amounts in April, but the actual funds are not deposited in UNM accounts until June. Many programs that use the scholarship as a recruitment tool find the timing of the funding unworkable. She plans to decentralize this scholarship program and will present her proposal to the Dean’s Council as well.

Wohlert also plans to decentralize the RPT grant funding to the degree programs. Creel asked that the GPSA Fee Board have an opportunity to review the new process before it is initiated. OGS will continue to manage the paperwork for all of the scholarship programs.

The meeting adjourned at 9:23.

