

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

The Senate Graduate Committee met on Thursday, April 5, 2007, in 108 Mitchell Hall.

Present: Ron Andrews, Lonna Atkeson, Anne Calhoon, *Barbara Carver, Joseph Garcia, *Mariana Ibáñez, Claudia Isaac, Jim Jacob (chair), Glenn Koster, Ann Massmann, Wolfgang Rudolph, *David Sanchez, *Kathleen Sena, Yu-Lin Shen, Geoff Shuster and Sam Truett

Excused: Ann Cunliffe, Mary Walker and *Amy Wohlert

Absent: Mario Rivera

Guests: Johannes Van Reenen, Cristy Crawley and Brian Freels-Stendel

Restructuring of Faculty Senate Subcommittees:

Jim Jacob reported that he had attended a meeting with the Operations Committee and the chairs of all Faculty Senate subcommittees to discuss the proposed restructuring of the FS. The reason why the FS is considering restructuring is that of the 26 subcommittees 13 are non-functioning. It was pointed out that many of the remaining 13 committees meet on a regular basis, conduct a variety of business, prepare minutes, etc. Some, of course, may not function as originally designed, but many do. The chairs of the active, functioning as organized subcommittees, providing faculty oversight in specific areas, suggested that the FS restructure the subcommittees that are not.

The suggestions included communication between subcommittees, posting of subcommittee minutes on the FS web page, and assigning a member of the Operations Committee as liaison to each subcommittee. No decisions were reached, but the Operations Committee will keep the subcommittee chairs informed of their actions and any further discussions on restructuring.

Honorary Degree Discussion:

Officially the Honorary Degree Committee is a subcommittee of the SGC. Lonna Atkeson reported that Regent Koch proposed that Regents be allowed to award at least one honorary degree each year. Isaac noted that the SGC had considered a similar proposal last year and had decided to retain the current Honorary Degree practice.

After a lengthy discussion the SGC voted to continue the current Honorary Degree process. Jim Jacob will draft a memo outlining the Committee's decision to the Regents. The memo will be sent to the members for comment before it is sent to the Regents.

Reports:**OGS:**

Barbara Carver, Assistant Dean, noted that we are still waiting for the Provost to appoint an acting dean for OGS.

GPSA:

Joseph Garcia announced that GPSA elections are next week; he is running for re-election. The GPSA Council is continuing its work on defining the role of GPSA in all areas.

SGC:

Jim Jacob announced that the Faculty Senate approved all SGC suggested policies at their March 27th meeting.

Electronic Theses/Dissertations:

Johannes von Reenen spoke to the Committee about the history and process for submission of manuscripts (theses/dissertations) electronically (ETD). He explained that the process was initiated in 1978. A number of pilot projects were initiated, but ETDs didn't really pick up speed until 1996. Virginia Tech took the lead in the US, but the ETD process grew exponentially in Europe and Latin America.

He noted that Provost Dasenbrock initiated a discussion with him and Dean Wohlert last summer about ETD's and the possibility of UNM using the process. Over a period of several months and many discussions, a proposal for a pilot project was born. The pilot will run Spring and Summer terms 2007 with students from Electrical and Computer Engineering only. Students will submit hard copies of their manuscripts as usual, but will also submit an electronic version. The Office of Graduate Studies will work with the students on the electronic submission. OGS will also review all the thesis/dissertation processes, forms and deadlines, and prepare proposals for change, deletion and/or additions of them as needed. At the end of the pilot, the Provost will forward his recommendation to either continue the ETD process for the entire campus or to disregard it.

Von Reenen demonstrated the process for ETS and answered questions. .

The meeting adjourned at 9:25.