

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

The Senate Graduate Committee met on Thursday, October 4, 2007, in 108 Mitchell Hall.

**Members Present:** Mel Armstrong, Michelle Arthur, Yemane Asmerom, \*Barbara Carver, \*Charles Fleddermann, \*Mariana Ibanez, Claudia Isaac, Jim Jacob (chair), Glenn Koster, Linda Felton, Greg Martin, Ann Massmann, Sue Queen, \*David Sanchez, \*Kathleen Sena, Geoff Shuster, John Stormont, Roli Varma and Linney Wix

**Members Excused:** Lonna Atkeson, Ron Andrews

**Guest:** Kathleen Keating

**Minutes:**

Sue Queen moved approval of the September 20, 2007 meeting. John Stormont seconded the motion, which passed. Jim Jacob reminded the members that minutes will be available on-line in the future; email will be sent when the minutes are ready for review.

**Curriculum/New Programs Subcommittee:**

Claudia Isaac noted that she had spoken to the Committee at the September 20<sup>th</sup> meeting about the Forms C and B on the Curriculum matrix. She asked the Committee to consider the two Forms C and related Forms B as a group. The department of Chemical and Nuclear Engineering submitted a Form C creating a concentration in Medical Physics, with some of the courses offered through Biomedical Sciences. Biomedical Sciences submitted a Form C creating a new course acronym for Medical Physics (MPHY), as well as 8 Forms B for new courses. The subcommittee had numerous questions for the faculty representatives from both Biomedical Sciences and Chemical and Nuclear Engineering, Isaac reported. Those concerns were all addressed and the subcommittee motion is that SGC approve the entire package. The motion was passed.

A Form B from Anderson Schools of Management (MGT 634) was also approved.

**Subcommittee on Graduate Student Enhancement:**

Chair, Jacob recapped the suggestion from Yemane Asmerom that SGC create a subcommittee (standing or ad hoc) on enhancing the graduate student experience at UNM and then asked Asmerom to expand on his suggestion. Asmerom explained that he had two experiences that focused his attention on enhancing the graduate student experience. The first was participation in an NSF sponsored panel on the topic, while the second was working with the Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP) project before it disbanded. These experiences were the impetus for his becoming a member of the SGC and his continued desire to find ways to enhance graduate student experience at UNM.

Members discussed if a subcommittee were warranted, or if the full SGC should be involved in the discussion of enhancement. They included various issues in their discussion such as increasing TA salaries to be competitive with peer institutions, increasing diversity, better/more financial aid packages and teacher training initiatives.

Acting graduate dean Fleddermann noted that he is gathering data on student stipends at peer institutions as part of his initiatives to increase graduate enrollments. He also provided the Committee with background on the AGEF program, including its successes at UNM, and the leadership problems that caused the loss of funding. He noted that a new AGEF proposal was submitted to NSF in August. Fleddermann said that he needed support from the Committee with the endeavors OGS is beginning – whether that be from a subcommittee or the full SGC.

The members talked about the role and charge of the proposed subcommittee as well as if it were needed. Some of the questions that came from the discussion include the following. Would the subcommittee serve as advisory to the graduate dean, the SGC or both? Would the focus of discussions be different if held in the full SGC than in the subcommittee? Would faculty buy-in be greater if lead taken by subcommittee? Some members questions the need for a subcommittee to deal with these issues.

Jacob recapped the experience of the SGC last academic year when each college was asked to provide the Committee with information on TA's, training, orientations, etc. All of the college offices that responded reported that they did not have time or staff to respond. He questioned if the responses would be different this year.

Mel Armstrong noted that the GPSA has been working on issues important to graduate students over the summer and that if there were time she would add these concerns to the Council's agenda.

Jacob offered to draft a statement of concerns on student enhancement issues that the Committee would review at the next meeting.

### **Dual Numbered Courses:**

Kathleen Sena reported on a new issue the Registrar's Office is dealing with. She explained that when creating a course, faculty can choose to allow it to be taken once or multiple times for credit. If a student repeats a course that is restricted to a single enrollment for credit, the student's transcript is marked to indicate the course was repeated and the grade and credit hours are stripped from the student's cumulative hours/GPA. This is a long-standing UNM policy, but an unexpected situation has come up as a result of the decision to consider dual numbered (3xx/5xx or 4xx/5xx) courses as equivalent.

The coupling of the dual numbers topics courses present the major issue because although they can be taken multiple times, Banner does not separate the undergraduate from graduate level instances because the courses are considered equivalent. An example is EDUC 493/593, a topics course that can be repeated up to 15 hours. If a student takes

EDUC 493 three times, s/he has taken 9 hours of the course. The student is admitted to graduate status and takes 9 hours of EDUC 593; in this case the student is given credit for 6 hours (15 hours total of EDUC 493/593), but the last 3-credit hour course is marked as “repeated” because the student has exceeded the **total** number of hours allowed.

Sena asked the Committee to consider decoupling the dual numbered courses – or at least the topics courses – so that students are not stripped of earned credits and grades. The Committee discussed this issue and decided that they did not have enough information to make an informed decision. They asked Sena to gather specific data on all dual numbered courses and to explore other options such as surveying departments on their willingness to increase allowable repeat credits for topics courses. Sena agreed to gather documentation and bring the issue forward at a future meeting.

#### **New Graduate Certificate Process:**

Dean Fleddermann reported in February 2007 the NM Higher Education Department announced that individual state universities could approve new graduate certificate programs without HED review. As a result the University needed an approval process for new certificates. Over the summer an ad hoc committee with members from SGC, FSCC, the OGS and Registrar’s Offices developed an approval process. The process mirrors the one used when faculty propose a new degree. The Committee were provided with informational copies of the process, workflow and revised Curriculum Form D. Fleddermann noted that the process, together with the new degree approval process would be added to the SGC web page as soon as the FSCC and Faculty Senate were given information on the new process.

#### **Reports:**

##### **GPSA:**

Mel Armstrong reported that the GPSA Symposium was very successful. The GPSA Council scheduled meeting will be on October 6<sup>th</sup>.

##### **OGS:**

Barbara Carver reported that the Graduate Fair was in progress with numerous workshops offered by Peer Mentoring for Graduates of Color (PMGC) and Career Workshops. The Fair (10/4) is in the SUB and she invited the members to remind their undergraduate students to take advantage of the opportunities to meet with representatives of the colleges/universities on campus.

##### **SGC:**

Jim Jacob announced that there was a critical need to name a chair-elect to the SGC as he would step down at the end of the fall 2007 term due to an increased workload that will not allow him from continue as chair.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.