


Date: April 22, 2016
To: Members of the UAMS Graduate Council and All Other Graduate Faculty
From: Dr. Sam Atcherson, Chair 
Subject: Graduate Council Meeting Minutes – April 21, 2016

Members Present: Drs. Tina Crook, Patricia Wight, Eric Peterson, Paul Prather, Antino Allen, Mari Davidson, Andrew James, Gunnar Boysen, and Mr. Wezley Griffin

Members Absent: Drs. Sam Atcherson, Seongkum Heo, Mark Menemeier, and Dan Voth

Non-voting Members: Drs. Robert McGehee, Kristen Sterba, Ms. Allyson Douglass

Administrative Items:

Dr. McGehee discussed the Spring Reception where a number of awards were given to faculty and students. When scheduling the 2017 Spring Reception, the Graduate School will insure that it does not overlap the Experimental Biology conference as it did this year. The UAMS campus-wide Student Research Day was a success. There were 127 posters with 2/3 from Graduate School students. The McGehee Distinguished Lectureship which featured a seminar by Dr. Arturo Casadevall was well attended. Drs. McGehee and Micah Hester will be visiting Dr. Casadevall at Johns Hopkins in the fall to learn more about his new program and see if there areas of it that could be implemented at UAMS.

Dr. McGehee reminded the council that Commencement will be held on May 21st at 3 p.m. Faculty and students need to arrive very early this year due to new security procedures at Verizon Arena. Brunch will also be held on May 21st at Embassy Suites at 10 a.m. The brunch will end by 12 pm to allow time to travel to Verizon Arena for the early arrival.

Dr. Sterba reported that 6 new IMSD students will begin graduate study in Fall 2016. As in previous years, IMSD students will begin a research rotation and summer review course in July. Ten students will also arrive for the UAMS Summer Undergraduate Research Program to Increase Diversity in Research on June 6.

Report from the Graduate Student Association:

A competitive GSA officer election was held in April.

The GSA officers met with the Provost and Dr. McGehee to discuss issues such as the increase in fees. They would like to meet with the Provost once or twice a year if possible.

Wezley Griffin also reported that the GSA T Shirt design contest for the 2016-2017 year has almost concluded. The GSA received a large number of designs. Once a design is selected, t-shirts will be available for online ordering. The annual crawfish boil is scheduled for 4/30. The canoe trip will be held 6/18.

Old Business:

Dr. Sterba reported that there was a good turnout for the PhD 2 movie. Approximately 65 people attended the viewing and almost 40 stayed following the movie for the IPE session. The Graduate School provided funds for the movie viewing and pizza for all attendees.

Dr. Mari Davidson described the immersion activity that occurred during Student Research Day. Students were placed in groups prior to the event. The groups met at 8 am on the morning of Student Research Day and were given their project scenarios. Students then worked on a presentation and proposal regarding their selected project until 2:45. At the end of the day, the groups presented their proposal to other IPE participants.

Dr. McGehee stated that there will be 3 Co-Directors for IPE. Dr. McGehee also made a motion to continue to only require completion of the Exposure phase for Graduate School students for 2016-17. The motion was unanimously approved.

New Business:

Dr. McGehee mentioned that there will be a revamp of all UAMS.edu websites.

He also reminded the council of the upcoming Graduate Faculty meeting that will be held on May 9th at 4 p.m. in Rayford Auditorium. One of the agenda items is updating the bylaws due to changes in Graduate School programs.

Reports of Committees

Curriculum Committee:

No new business.

Faculty Committee:

Drs. Syed, Thakkar, and Franklin were voted on and approved for graduate faculty status.

Academic Senate:

The new president will be Dr. Daniel Voth. No new business otherwise.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:06 p.m.