

Minutes 9-23-07

- Meeting began at 7:02 with Senator Miyazaki Rie approving the minutes from the last meeting, Senator Justin Goldstein seconded them.
- Chair R. Griffiths spoke on the decision to not have food at every meeting, just the ones that are determined to be longer than normal.
- Vice Chair Adams- Johnson introduced Dean Williams and Tina Marie Franks from the Graduate College and asked the committee chairs to stand up and introduce themselves to the new senators
- Secretary Schneider spoke about the bylaws and rules that have been revised. He has sent these revisions to Internal Affairs committee. He also spoke about the revamping of the committee reports form and he will add this new template to the web page under forms.
- Committee Chairs gave a report:
 1. Academic Affairs- has set up 2 new sub committees- English Assessment Test (interested parties may contact Eduardo Martinez at emartinez@math.ou.edu. The other subcommittee will look into issues of difference in pay between the various departments and colleges for TA's and RA's
 2. External Affairs – looking into health care- surveying other universities to see how health care is handled for Grad. Students
 3. Human Diversity- no report- anyone with ideas for upcoming events should contact chair Vanessa Sherk
 4. Internal Affairs- No report
 5. Public Relations- No report
 6. Problems and Projects- have developed a volleyball social that will be held at Reeves Park. They will publish the date as soon as it has been agreed upon with the parks department. This will be a family oriented event. They are also working on Grad. Appreciation Week.
- Dean Lee Williams , Graduate Dean and V.P. of Research spoke :
 1. In reference to Graduate Stipends, He noted that the Provost sets the minimum pay scales, the individual colleges or departments supplement as their funds allow.
 2. Discussed 2 aspects of Graduate Complaints:
 - a. For grade appeals- Student must follow the standard grade appeals thru the college in which the course is taken
 - b. For Grad. Programs – issues such as thesis, comprehensive grad. Exams etc. goes thru the grad college
 - c. Qualifying exams are the prerogative of the college or the department. The Grad. College does not have a requirement for these sorts of exams. Any complaints with this situation must be dealt with in the college or department.

3. Question & Concerns about Academic Progress and Process must follow the following pathway of protocol:
 - a. Instructor of the class
 - b. Chair of your committee
 - c. Graduate College Liaison/Chair or your department
 - d. Dean of the Graduate College
 4. Dean Williams also noted that on a doctoral committee, the external member is his representative to make sure that due process is followed
 5. Graduate assistant ships:
 - a. TA's are assigned by the department with a minimum stipend that is set by the Provost
 - b. RA's are paid by sponsored research grants. These are assigned by the individual faculty. Usually the stipend is funded by a different source of income than the TA's
 6. Tuition Waiver comes out of the Grad. Dean's budget. He is concerned with balance between resident and no resident students.
 7. Fees- the Dean has no budget for fees. He is aware that this is an increasingly large issue within the Grad. Student community.
 8. The Dean remarked that 1/3 of all degrees awarded by the University is graduate degrees. 20% of the student population is Graduate Students
- Tina Marie Franks of the Graduate College spoke:
 1. The Graduate Appreciation Week in spring 08 will have its poster session date as 3-29-08. This will combine the Undergrad and Graduate research presentation dates. The hope is to attract more outside traffic and ultimately more donors
 2. Diana Beal in the Grad. College is the person to contact for this research presentation date.
 3. The Grad. College is looking to use the Weather Center on South campus as the host facility for this date.
 4. There is a development officer who is working on raiding more funds for graduate students.
 5. Graduate Enrollment and Management Pilot Project was briefly described. The initial focus is on Graduate Recruitment.
 - GF07-03 was passed by consent-moved by Senator Thu Nguyen, seconded by Senator Bryan Burkholder
 - GF07-04 was passed by consent- moved by Senator Frank Yprez , seconded by Senator Barry Goepfert
- Meeting adjourned by the Chair at 8pm