

MINUTES

UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING

October 13 2005

Shenandoah Room, Mt. Lair

(3:00 – 5:00)

ATTENDANCE

Voting Members: William Bryan, Jorge Flores, Christopher Plein, Patrick Callery, Ron Balvers, Timothy Warner, Richard Walls, Andrew Hawkins, Kashy Aminian

Ex-officio Members: Larry Hornack, Tom Saba, Robert Stitzel

Guests: Stuart Wells, Helen Huntley, Rob Pack, Alan Ducatman, Ian Rockett

Approval of the Minutes of 09/08/05

Introduction to the Ph.D. in Public Health Sciences—Rob Pack, Ian Rockett, Alan Ducatman

Dr. Pack presented an overview of the newly proposed Ph.D. in Public Health Sciences. They hope to complete the full proposal in about 2 weeks. The Advisory Committee for this program comes from various organizations. The committee's goals are to offer the Ph.D. degree program in Public Health Sciences by Fall 2006, and to gain approval for the program by late fall 2005 giving them time to recruit for Fall 2006. Students coming into this program must have a core background in basic sciences, social sciences, and education. Students also will have an extensive knowledge of statistics and math. The Ph.D. in Public Health Sciences will be an interdisciplinary research-intensive post-baccalaureate four year program. There will be a common core the first year with matriculation to a specialized track at the beginning of the second year. Students must complete comprehensive exams and a dissertation using original research. The program will be eventually presented in three phases:

- Phase I: Two tracks to start
 - Social and Behavioral Sciences
 - Population Epidemiology and Biostatistics
- Phase II: Two additional tracks phased in over 5 years
 - Health Policy
 - Environmental Health
- Phase III: Potential additional tracks
 - Physical Activity and Nutrition (preliminary planning)
 - Others?

Phased implementation will give time to build faculty strength and relationships. The faculty will all have evidence of public health scholarship, most with funded or recently funded public health research grants, and they will seek regular graduate faculty status for those without it. There will be strong evaluation and assessment criteria by students as well as internal and external groups.

Graduate stipends will be funded by the program for the first two years; students will

then be supported by mentor funding. There is already an identified source for program funding through HSC.

Newly Revised TOEFL Exam—Helen Huntley, Stuart Wells

Helen Huntley, Director of WVU's Intensive English Program and Stuart Wells of the Graduate/International unit of Admissions and Records presented and answered questions on the newly modified TOEFL Exam which became mandatory in the U.S. in September 2005. It is now a four hour test. This is the Next Generation in TOEFL exams—iBT (Internet Based Test). The test covers all skills—Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking. It is anticipated that the iBT will better reflect the student's true ability to use English. It will soon be available at thousands of test centers worldwide with online test registration and score reporting. More information about TOEFL iBT can be obtained at www.ets.org/toefl5.html, e-mail toefl@ets.org, or by calling 1-877-863-3546. Ms. Huntley also shared "TOEFL Total Score Comparisons" which included the New Internet-based TOEFL Totals, Computer-based Totals, and Paper-based Totals. She also shared "TOEFL At A Glance from ETS," explaining how TOEFL iBT has changed including tables comparing the iBT, CBT, and PBT from each area of concentration. It was decided that a total score of 80 on the iBT should be required at WVU for Graduate Admission.

WVU is still receiving old scores and will for at least 2 more years. If GA positions are going to be held by international students they still need to do the TSE speaking test. Helen Huntley's office offers this test. A score of 23 on the English portion of the iBT will eventually replace the present 50 on the SPEAK test as a passing grade.

Improved Senate/Grad Council Communication—Larry Hornak

An Ad Hoc was asked to:

1. Review the completeness and effectiveness of current processes, organization, and linkages of the Senate with respect to research and graduate education.
2. Make recommendations to the Senate Executive Committee regarding
 - a. Senate Process or organization changes and
 - b. Opportunities external to the Senate for increased Senate representation to optimize the effectiveness of the Senate's engagement in research and graduate education.

Dr. Hornak shared a memo sent to the Executive Committee of WVU Faculty Senate concerning an Interim Report and Recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee on Senate Organization for Research and Graduate Education Engagement. Dr. Hornak noted that at present there has been no discussion at the Senate concerning Graduate Education. He hopes to provide committee recommendations that will combine discussions of graduate education and research. The ad hoc committee is considering whether the Senate Executive Committee should have the chair of the Graduate Council and the Director of Graduate Education as members. There may be a need to change by-laws of both the Senate and the Graduate Council concerning voting and non-voting membership.

The desired outcome of the ad hoc committee is increased communication and coordination between the Senate, the Graduate Council, and the Research organizations of the university including the Research Office and the Research Corporation.

BOG Review Time Table

The next meeting of the Graduate Council will discuss the BOG program review process. All must be completed by the April 2006 meeting.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjourn

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, November 10, Andrews Room, ESB