

Minutes of October 31, 2014 Meeting of Senate Growth and Development Committee

November 14, 2014

Attendance: Dianne Beer, Tracie Borden, Jake Broccolo, Joseph Crivello, Masha Gordina, Shanna Graham, Kathy Hendrickson, Andrew Moiseff, Larry Renfro, Lyle Scruggs, Faquir Jain.

Kent Holsinger, Dean Graduate School shared his perspective about graduate enrollment and other issues. He noted that graduate TAs and RAs are controlled by the respective department heads and/or deans. He also recognized the need for offering better services including career development seminars to the graduate students.

L. Renfro notes some success via REU programs. He suggested offering Graduate fellowships to UConn juniors to attract them to the graduate programs. M. Gordina observed that REU site does not allow recruitment of UConn students in numbers that we need. REU experience is good from job placement viewpoint as well.

J. Crivello noted the need for approaching biotechnology firms which number over 150 in the state.

K. Holsinger noted that unlike some schools, there is no fund dedicated to recruit graduate students. The Graduate School provides pre-doctoral fellowships to departments and doctoral dissertation stipends of \$2K and travel support directly to doctoral students. He mentioned that in light of 5,000 or so additional undergraduate students supported by NextGen, more TA and Lab support is envisioned.

M. Gordina observed that in light of increased fringe benefits for the graduate assistants, the Math department is not competitive in recruiting RAs. Most of the students are TAs.

L. Scruggs asked how they get fellowships. Kent Holsinger replied that some universities like Michigan have large endowments. L. Scruggs noted that the state should allow flexibility in terms of spending.

S. Graham mentioned that there is lack of resources for graduate students, including housing. This is particularly severe for international students who do not have cars.

The issue of English proficiency was raised by M. Gordina. UCAELI and other TA training programs need to be enhanced.

K. Holsinger noted that some RAs are supported by UITS and other units.

L. Renfro asked to investigate tuition charged to research grants, and noted to have more funding in the operating budget as well as increased work-study programs.

Increased graduate support from IGERT, NSF, NIH, and foundations was suggested to enhance number of graduate fellowships.

M. Gordina suggested investigating the affect of tuition charges on the graduate enrollment at UConn.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00am.

Fall meetings:

Thursday, September 4, 2014 at 11:00am Hall Building, Room 123.

Friday, September 26th 2014 at 10:00am, Hall Building, Room 123.

Friday, October 17, 2014 at 10:00am, Hall Building, Room 123.

Sally Reis, Vice Provost will discuss Academic Plan implementation.

October 31st 2014, 10:00am Kent Holsinger, Hall Building, Room 123.

10:30 am Barbara O'Connor (to be rescheduled)

November 14, 2014, 10:00am Jeff Seeman, Hall Building, Room 123.

10:30am Lawrence Silbart and Steven Suib

December 5, 2014, 10:00am Joshua Newton, Hall Building, Room 123.

10:30am Laura Cruickshank and Beverly Wood.

Growth and Development Committee Members: Reda Ammar, Marcy Balunas, David Benson, Robert Bird, Dianne Beer, Tracie Borden, Jake Broccolo, Joseph Crivello, Masha Gordina, Shanna Graham, Kathy Hendrickson, Kathryn Libal, Jeanne Martin, Erin Mason, Daniel Mercier, Andrew Moiseff, James Renfro, Lyle Scruggs, Dana Wilder, Faquir Jain