

**Date:** August 22, 2011

**To:** Members of UAMS Graduate Council and All Other Graduate Faculty

**From:** Dr. Helen Beneš, Chair

**Subject:** Graduate Council Meeting Minutes – August 18, 2011

Members Present: Drs. Abraham, Basnakian, Borders, Crook, Ferguson, Goodwin, Gottschall, Gray, Hendrickson, Krukowski, Post, Simmen, Ms. Butler, Ms. McDaniel and Dr. Guyette substituting for Ms. Hutton.

Members Absent: Ms. Hutton

Non-voting Members Present: Dr. Robert E. McGehee, Jr., Dr. Kristen Sterba, Mr. Jackie McRoberts and Ms. Pattie Hamilton

Non-voting Members Absent:

Attendees:

Dr. Beneš called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 19, 2011 meeting were approved.

2. Administrative Items

Dr. McGehee welcomed everyone. Dr. McGehee announced that the annual Research Induction Ceremony will be held September 27 with the Fall Reception of the Graduate School to follow. Dr. McGehee stated there are several awards to present and he invited everyone to attend.

Dr. McGehee stated that there is a new Chair for Pharmaceutical Sciences, Dr. Peter Crooks. Dr. Crooks and his department are planning to start a Ph.D. program.

Dr. McGehee announced that there was a 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration for NCTR a few weeks ago which included a guest speaker from the FDA. Dr. McGehee stated there is a memorandum of understanding between NCTR, UAMS and the Governor of Arkansas to boost interactive research programs. One possibility is a Regulatory Science graduate program.

Dr. McGehee announced that there are two new courses, one in Crystallography and one in Lab Animal Medicine, that will be taught this Fall.

Dr. McGehee stated that Drs. Thomas, Sterba and himself received a Diversity R25 grant for the summer undergraduate research program known as SURF and will be submitting a grant proposal for a K12 in October.

Dr. McGehee stated that he will continue to suspend the GSRF program to allow more graduate students to attend national meetings.

Dr. McGehee announced that he has lobbied in the past for more stipends for non-basic science Ph.D. programs and this year received three for eighteen months of support: Nursing, Communication Sciences and Disorders, Health Systems Research and Health Promotion and Prevention Research.

#### Report from Dr. Sterba

Dr. Sterba stated that she is working with the GSA Teaching Committee to develop more student teaching opportunities. She announced that there is an organizational meeting on August 30 for those interested.

Dr. Sterba announced that Career Day will be October 13 in the Spine Institute. She stated that some of our former graduates will be speaking this year.

#### Report from the Graduate Student Association

Ms. McDaniel reported that the GSA met to plan orientation and brainstorm on new ideas. Ms. McDaniel stated that the GSA plans to move their meetings out of the Biomed buildings for better access to all students.

Ms. McDaniel announced that the Back to School picnic will be August 27 on Lake Ouachita. The GSA plans to continue with some of the previous sponsored events such as the Thanksgiving Potluck, Canoe Trips and Paintball.

Ms. McDaniel stated that two new events that the GSA would like to sponsor are Fundraising for Local Events and Awareness of Global Health Issues.

Ms. McDaniel stated that the GSA hopes to sponsor students for the UAMS Marathon and will ask for fundraising support on and off campus. Dr. Sterba suggested that the GSA may want to collaborate with COPH students.

#### 1. Old Business

None

#### 2. New Business

- a. Dr. McGehee spoke briefly regarding the assessments of graduate programs and asked everyone to bring back ideas next month on how to follow up on the reports that were submitted in the Spring. One possible way is to include a letter of comment with the assessment.

- b. Graduate Council Committees were formed as listed below:

Faculty Committee

Dr. Alesia Ferguson  
Dr. Edathara Abraham  
Dr. Alexei Basnakian  
Ms. Terri Hutton

Dr. Howard Hendrickson  
Ms. Becky Butler

Assessment Committee

Dr. Julia Goodwin  
Dr. Tina Crook  
Dr. Helen Beneš  
Dr. Paul Gottschall  
Dr. Steven Post  
Dr. Tyrone Borders

Curriculum Committee

Dr. Rebecca Krukowski  
Dr. Wayne Gray  
Dr. Rosalia Simmen

- c. Dr. Borders requested that when rosters and grade sheets are sent to the Program Directors for Research and Dissertation, that they be sent to the major advisors of each student. Dr. McGehee stated that the current databases that we use are not capable of dividing across numerous mentors. The solution at this time is for when rosters and grade sheets are sent to the Program Director, they may also send an email to Pattie Hamilton listing each student's mentor; she will then work directly with the mentor for grade submission to the Graduate School Office.

3. Reports from Committees

*Assessment Committee* – no report

*Curriculum Committee* – no report

*Faculty Committee* – no report

4. Announcements- Dr. McGehee announced that a donation of \$150,000.00 was given in his name to start the Robert E. McGehee Distinguished Lecture series. Dr. McGehee announced he is working with Dr. Gardner in the College of Pharmacy in hopes that Rebecca Skloot, a science writer, will be the Inaugural Lecture speaker.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55.