

COGS GA Meeting

March 26th, 2009

105 Cargill Building

6:00 – Call to order, Mr. Hart

6:01 – Approve Agenda

6:02 – Approve minutes from last meeting

6:03 – Geoff – update on Graduate School restructuring

Open meeting of Implementation Team report

University-wide fellowships and admissions will likely remain centralized

Response to Sullivan's comment on 'misunderstanding' reported in the MN Daily

Letter sent to the Board of Regents regarding policy breaches

Focuses on the Graduate School being an academic, not administrative, unit

6:08 – Kristi Kremers, GAPSA President and member of Implementation Team – report

Open meeting #3 on Monday, St. Paul Campus

request for comments (form provided)

Q&A: (Kremers in italics; italics and underline are replies from other COGS members)

Has there been discussion of the role of Policy and Review Councils?

At the last meeting, but she wasn't able to attend

What's happening with interdisciplinary programs (e.g. PFF) or PhD minors?

Will mostly change the control over Masters programs

Masters programs are being advised to still be under student government

Think Masters programs may be better run through individual colleges

Survival of the Community of Scholars, Center for Academic Development, PFF?

All programs and services will be kept intact, but responsibilities will be moved to different administrative units

Moving Community of Scholars Program under Diversity office; should be kept centralized

Draft something as to -why- CoSP should be kept centralized and send it to Team

The Grad School has 20 diversity programs: why are they being moved period?

There are 4 areas which have been identified as priority areas to be streamlined

1) Admissions

2) Re-combine the Dean of Graduate School with VP of Research

3) Diversity programs (moved to Diversity Office)

4) International Student Services

What mechanism will be used to maintain things that stay centralized?

I don't know

Who will implement workshops currently run by the Graduate School?

That will remain as it is.

What will the centralized office look like?

4 areas of redundancies are what would change; beyond that what affects us directly will be unchanged. Efforts on obtaining data and surveys (e.g. on alumni, etc) will be put in place and streamlined.

So the VP of Research will also be the Dean of the Graduate School?

There is a possibility of returning to that model

Since people's jobs will be eliminated, will there be enough support and expertise to run the workshops?

Other than the 4 areas of redundancy, positions are unlikely to be eliminated

Concerns with the restructuring:

Right now there are some problems and redundancies

Need to make sure that there aren't delays that affect students during transition

Some programs have a large number of students and little funding support

*Some programs have students taking too long to graduate
need more oversight*

Grad School needs continued and enhanced support, instead of being restructured

Current admissions process is flawed

*Dept and Grad School only appear to have 2 separate processes
leaning towards a centralized admission process*

Many things, including admissions, will remain centralized

How can there be oversight of time to degree, it varies with program

*It isn't compared between programs, but within a program over years or to
programs at other universities*

How does time to degree directly relate to quality? Isn't quality the important part?

It impacts the amount of student debt and life quality

can indicate flaws in a program or funding structure

Grad School was doing a good job following this

Grad School was putting effort into reducing time to degree

When do we lose our voice if the new office is administrative? Where are protections?

How do we respond to an administration that ignores shared governance?

*I agree. It is true and we have been looking into how to do that. President
Bruininks is the most popular Pres. in the University's history.*

How to move ahead? Talk to the Faculty Consultative Committee

Graduate School now is under the Provost's office, so this doesn't change

*Provost has been increasing funding so we do not need to be concerned
regarding his intentions towards graduate students*

Other GAPSA announcements:

GAPSA will be sending out a message from the Provost regarding budget figures

GAPSA elections are upcoming

6:35 – Geoff: Overview of changes to COGS constitution

Friendly amendment: change “Office of Graduate Education” to “its successor”
amendment accepted

6:38 – P. Weisenhorn and Geoff Hart; Discussion of COGS restructuring

Main topics: Publicity / letting people know what COGS does

email is a poor way to communicate with students, esp. attachments

big annual event for people to associate with COGS

Turnover and institutional knowledge

General support for a university-wide body

academic aspects vis-a-vis P+R Councils

some colleges focused more on undergraduates

university-wide standards are important

General support that more should be done at college-level

lower-level might improve recruitment and participation

sense of purpose and more tangible results

7:25 – Announcements: Jorge Cham

7:30 – Meeting extended 15 mins

7:31 – Faculty vote of 'no confidence'

7:45 – Meeting extended 10 mins

7:50 – Meeting adjourned