

Northeastern Association of Graduate Schools
Executive Committee Meeting
Hilton Washington Embassy Row
October 28, 2006

Present: Scott Delcourt, Susan Guma, Julia Halevy, Chet Jablonski, Mary Martin, Harry Richards, Jim Schaefer, and Mick Thompson

Regrets: Sandra Holley, Dale Kinney, Martin Kreiswirth, and Renetta Tull

President Schaefer called the meeting to order at 8:15 A.M.

Executive Committee members introduced themselves. Newly-elected representative Chet Jablonski was welcomed to the Board.

The minutes of the April 7, 2006 meeting were approved unanimously.

Membership Report:

Secretary-Treasurer Scott Delcourt reported that the NAGS membership mailing had recently been mailed. A membership report will be given at the December NAGS Executive Committee meeting. There was a discussion about various ways to increase membership including having a NAGS reception or reserved luncheon tables at the CGS meeting, having a “sign up” for dinner at CGS for interested institutions to learn more about NAGS, having NAGS Executive committee members wear badges at the CGS conference, adding more representatives from master’s-focused institutions to the NAGS Executive Committee, and contacting NAGS institutions via e-mail to obtain feedback on the conference agenda.

Treasurer’s Report:

Scott Delcourt distributed a financial report on the 2006 annual meeting. Revenues for the annual meeting were \$22,080; expenses were \$21,482.63 for a **profit** of \$597.37. A paid attendance of 83 individuals and five conference sponsors helped account for the gain in conference revenue. Scott noted there may be as many as six conference sponsors for the 2007 annual meeting, increasing the likelihood that the conference would again break even.

Constitutional Amendment:

Harry Richards presented three proposed amendments to the Constitution. Amendment 1 in Article V, Section 4a raises the number of Executive Committee members from 12 to 16 and makes the term of appointment three years. Amendments 2 and 3 in Article VI and VII respectively change the process for approving by-laws and amendments to the Constitution so that both may be approved by a majority vote at the annual meeting.

Graduate School Issues:

The group had a roundtable discussion of those issues that were most pressing at respective member’s institutions. Out of this discussion came the following potential conference topics:

Transitional issues in graduate schools related to changes in university leadership
Staff development for assistant/associate graduate deans
Mentoring new faculty
Graduate student diversity
Growth in interdisciplinary graduate programs and research
More legal issues facing graduate deans
Budget drivers in graduate schools
Integrating graduate admissions and financial aid
International student advisement
Legislative outreach – promoting the importance of graduate education
Mission creep – growth of professional doctorate programs

CGS Professional Master's Workshop

Carol Lynch joined the Board for lunch to discuss the possibility of having a pre-meeting workshop on the CGS Professional Science Master's Program initiative. The first meeting plenary session would be on the same topic and would make use of the workshop participants.

Proposed Agenda for 2007 Annual Meeting:

The Board began discussion of the meeting agenda (below). Note: Renetta Tull submitted her proposal for Plenary VII via e-mail.

Thursday, March 22

CGS workshop in a.m. for Professional Science Master's program directors and their deans, max. of 25 participants, **by invitation**. Participants invited to participate rest of the day.

[Logistical notes - Need to add room, plus continental buffet and lunch buffet for participants, as well as reception / dinner for those who stay, to be added to NAGS's tab to count toward our food & beverage total.]

Plenary I CGS Professional Master's Initiative

[Participants from workshop discuss their work and how "discipline-plus" model could be adapted to other fields. This topic leads directly to next session on Interdisciplinarity. Carol Lynch will lead from CGS. Harry Richards will moderate.]

Plenary II What is Interdisciplinarity?

[Do we know it when we see it? Is it simply what doesn't fit into a single discipline, arranged *ad hoc* by students and faculty? Or does it imply or require formal recognition through joint degree programs or other institutional mechanisms? Either way, how does the tendency toward increased interdisciplinarity affect what we understand the mission of our universities to be? Suggested participants included Harvey Waterman, a representative of a master's-focused university, and a Canadian. This session would lead in turn to the keynote speaker.]

Keynote : Doctoral Education: Preparing Stewards of the Discipline –

George Walker, V P for Research and Dean of the University Graduate School,
Florida International University

[GW led the Carnegie Initiative on the Doctorate and is co-editor of its publication, "Envisioning the Future of Doctoral Education: Preparing Stewards of the Discipline," with essays on the how Ph.D. training has and should change, including increased interdisciplinarity. Dr. Walker has accepted an invitation to speak.]

Friday, March 23

Plenary III Mentoring Faculty Mentors

[Issues include, what constitutes mentoring at master's and doctoral levels? What are the faculty's ethical responsibilities toward mentoring both students and junior faculty? How do we address faculty concerns about the increased work that load mentoring requires, while balancing students' expectations of 24/7 access via email and other forms of electronic communication?]

Plenary IV The Dean's Office in the Changing University – an Associate Deans' Panel

[Topics might include "roles/professional development," "leadership transitions", and "absorbing some of the pressure felt by faculty re: mentoring," which connects us to the previous session. The transitions we face are more than just those from a frequently-changing leadership. We've gone from working in a quiet suite of offices filled with paper and paper-shufflers to a workplace in which most of the workload is hidden in plain sight on computers; where the clerical staff disappeared long ago, requiring us all to be our own secretaries; and where the professional staff are called upon to keep the graduate school running while encountering an increasing number of legal and technical challenges, as well as the expectation that they will provide leadership on multiple university-wide initiatives. Potential speakers: Cari Moorhead, UNH; John Aram, Lesley University; Jim Schaefer will moderate.]

- * Student issues (not specified) Included in the Associate Deans' panel (horror stories?) .
- * Mental health of grad students again tie into the Associate Deans' panel
- * Academic integrity and grad students again with Associate Deans?

Plenary Session V: What's Driving Graduate School Budgets?

[Focus on meeting enrollment goals at the expense of academic quality?
Sheila McMullan, Assoc. Dean for Finance and Administration, Georgetown University might present here.]

Plenary Session VI: Financial Support for Graduate Students

[Ken Redd (CGS) might present.]

Plenary Session VII: Broadening Participation of Underrepresented Ethnic Minorities to Increase the Pipeline of Trained U.S. Citizens in Areas of National Need

[The panel will highlight the nation's critical needs, provide a forum to discuss ways to cultivate the intellectual assets within our country, and establish the role of NAGS for addressing this aspect of the nation's security. Among the many expected outcomes of this session will be the identification of resources to assist in developing a sustainable model for recruiting, retaining,

training, and preparing students from under-represented ethnic groups to be national leaders in educational, corporate, and government sectors, especially where U.S. citizenship is mandatory. Renetta Tull will moderate.]

Plenary Session VIII: “Legal Issues in Graduate Education (part deux)”

[Scott will poll last year’s conference attendees on suggested topics. Kathryn Baerwald, Senior Associate Counsel at Georgetown would likely return as a panelist.]

Conference Sponsors’ Informational Breakfast

The Executive Committee discussed offering potential conference sponsors (\$1000 contributors) an opportunity to hold informational breakfast sessions on Friday morning. Sponsors will need to pay any costs for breakfast and for breakout rooms. Jim will contact Lawrence Martin regarding sponsorship by Academic Analytics. Scott will approach other potential sponsors including ProQuest, ETS, WES, and GradSchools.Com (who has provided internet access at CGS meetings).

[Logistical notes – 1. Breakout room(s) for conference sponsors on Friday morning. How much for room(s) if the sponsors pay for a breakfast? 2. Place for vendors to set up display tables throughout conference? 3. Space for continental breakfast?]

Awards Committees:

Review of the awards guidelines will be postponed until the December 2006 Executive Committee meeting.

Jim Schaefer will write to the following individuals to ask if they would lead committees:

- a. Graduate Teaching Award – Mark Curchack
- b. Geoffrey Marshall Mentoring – Renetta Tull
- c. Dissertation Award: Physical Sciences, Mathematics, & Engineering – Ron Kane
- d. Master's Award: Social Sciences & Education – Sandra Holley

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott G. Delcourt

Next meeting: Friday December 8, 2006 (7:30 am in Washington, DC at CGS)