

Executive Committee
of the
Graduate Faculty Council

MINUTES

February 9, 2011
Whetten Graduate Center – Giolas Conference Room
3:00 PM

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:04 P.M. Interim Dean Lee A. Aggison, Jr. presided.
2. Provost Nicholls was present to discuss with members the *Universitas 21 Memorandum of Understanding – Jointly Awarded Ph.D. Degree*. He explained the proposal and how the jointly-awarded Ph.D. degrees that are earned by participating students will be administered among the international group of universities that have signed the agreement to date (he noted that Interim President Austin signed the agreement on UConn's behalf last December). The number of participating universities may grow to 25 in the near future.
3. It was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve as distributed the minutes of the meeting of December 8, 2010. T. Peters thanked J. Barnes-Farrell for taking and preparing these minutes in his absence.
4. It was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve the list of Plans of Study and Dissertation Proposals.
5. Department Head Carl Maresh was present to discuss with members a proposal from the Department of Kinesiology to change from M.A. to M.S. the master's degree awarded in that Field of Study. He responded to members' questions. The proposal will be considered at the next meeting.
6. Members considered a proposal from the Department of Modern and Classical Languages, received at the December 2010 meeting, to reconfigure the existing Fields of Study of *Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies, French, German, Italian, and Spanish* as follows --

New Field of Study name:	Literatures, Cultures, and Languages M.A., Ph.D.
Areas of Concentration:	- Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies
(These are the current	- French and Francophone Studies
Fields of Study, the	- German Studies
latter four with modified	- Italian Cultural and Literary Studies
names)	- Spanish Studies

Department Head Rosa Chinchilla was present to explain the proposal and to respond to questions.

Following brief discussion and Chinchilla's departure, it was **moved** (J.G. Clifford) and seconded (J. Barnes-Farrell) to approve the proposal. The motion **passed** without dissent on a voice vote.

7. Members considered a proposal from the School of Engineering to implement a modification to the Master of Science degree program in Engineering Fields of Study that would permit the University of Connecticut School of Engineering to partner with two leading European universities in offering jointly an exchange program that would result in the awarding of two master's degrees to students completing the full program of study at the two institutions (with the University of Connecticut conferring one of the degrees and one of the two European universities conferring the other). Reda Ammar, Department Head of Computer Science and Engineering, was present to explain the proposal and to respond to questions. The proposal involves the acceptance of up to 12 transfer credits by each of the universities attended by an individual student in the program from the other university. Members determined that additional information would be needed in order to reach a consensus concerning the proposal. It was agreed that Ammar would be invited to meet with the group again at the next meeting.

ADDENDUM TO ITEM 7: As a result of subsequent communication among the members of the Executive Committee attending the meeting, as facilitated by the Office of the Graduate School, these Executive Committee members determined that no further action on their part was needed for approval. Members concurring included W. Abikoff, M. Aindow, J. Barnes-Farrell, and J.G. Clifford. [2/18/11]

8. A proposal to modify the Graduate Certificate Program in *Geographic Information Systems* was introduced. Members determined that more information would be needed before they could consider the proposal. It was agreed to invite a faculty member from the Department of Geography to the next meeting to speak about the proposal and to answer questions.
9. Members considered a recommendation from the School of Nursing to approve the Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) grading option for NURS 5700 and NURS 5710. Members agreed that there was a disconnect between the explanation provided and the course descriptions. It was agreed that the proposer will be asked to provide clarification.
10. It was agreed to call a meeting of the Graduate Faculty Council for 2/16/11. The agenda will include an election to fill two seats on the Executive Committee for three-year terms (the terms of Garry Clifford and Sylvain De Guise have expired) and a demonstration of admissions software by Hobsons.
11. There was no new business.
12. L. Aggison provided the following updates and announcements:
 - * The Graduate School is seeking vendors to demonstrate fully-electronic admissions software for possible purchase.
 - * The Graduate School is working to make more of its workflow more electronic utilizing the internet.
 - * Four development workshops are being offered this semester to graduate students and postdocs and all available slots already have been filled.
13. Adjournment was at 5:04 PM.

Present: W. Abikoff, M. Aindow, J. Barnes-Farrell, J. G. Clifford, S. Nunnally, L. Aggison (Interim Dean), and T. Peters (Program Director)

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas B. Peters

Program Director