

Executive Committee
of the
Graduate Faculty Council

MINUTES

August 1, 2005
Whetten Graduate Center -- Giolas Conference Room
10:30 A.M.

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:35 A.M. Interim Vice Provost Gregory J. Anderson presided.
2. It was **moved** and seconded to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 8, 2005. The motion **passed** without dissent with two corrections.
3. It was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve the list of Plans of Study and Dissertation Proposals.
4. A proposal to implement a new Doctor of Philosophy degree program in the Field of Study of Public Health with a Concentration in Social and Behavioral Health Sciences was introduced for consideration. It was **moved** (E. Pagoulatos) and seconded (J. Marsden) to approve the proposal.

Discussion followed and touched on a variety of points:

- The mix of practice-based vs. research-based activities was explored. The committee concluded that as a Ph.D. program it should be unequivocally research-based, particularly in light of the declared intent to establish a more practice-based Dr.P.H. program in the future. The committee asked that the authors consider modifications to the proposal that would support this characteristic more strongly. For example, students in research-intensive programs begin their research endeavors well before the fourth year of study.
- The committee noted that a number of new courses are proposed. They asked that an appropriate statement be included in the letters from the academic units offering the new courses stating their willingness and ability to offer them.
- The committee noted that the proposed program is to be housed in the newly established Center for Public Health and Health Policy. The committee remains concerned that the placement of a doctoral degree program in an intrinsically transitory non-academic unit may lead to a lack of appropriate faculty oversight and unreliable resource allocation, which can threaten its long-term viability. The Executive Committee asked that an Oversight Committee be established, either as an outgrowth of the proposed Evaluation Committee or as a separate entity. The Oversight Committee should consist of approximately six faculty drawn equally from the two campuses and should broadly represent the faculty of those academic units most directly involved in the proposed program. This committee will provide academic oversight for the program and will report annually to the Executive Committee.
- There also was discussion about the possibility that academic departments beyond those presently included in the proposal might wish to become involved as the program develops. At a minimum, a statement stating that a broad range of graduate courses could be available to Public Health doctoral students with interests in cognate areas (e.g., Economics and Political Science) should be included.
- Several needed technical clarifications in the program-operation section of the proposal were identified. J. Henkel will transmit these changes to the authors.

It was **moved** (D. Cournoyer) and **seconded** (E. Smith) to ask the applicants to address these concerns in a revision of the proposal. The motion **passed** without dissent on a voice vote.

The question on the original motion, as now amended, was called. Members voted without dissent on a voice vote to **approve the proposal** contingent upon receipt of the specified revisions by the Executive Committee.

The Committee noted that the proposal is well prepared and that its approval of this proposal reflects the importance of establishing timely interdisciplinary degree programs in this area.

5. For the Fall 2005 semester, it was agreed that the Executive Committee will meet on the first Wednesday of each month from 3:00 to 5:00 P.M. (9/7/05, 10/5/05, 11/2/05, and 12/7/05) and that the Graduate Faculty Council will meet on the third Wednesday of the month from 3:00 to 5:00 P.M. (9/21/05, 10/19/05, 11/16/05, and 12/21/05). Meetings of the Executive Committee are held in the Giolas Conference Room and meetings of the Graduate Faculty Council are held in Room 200 of the Whetten Graduate Center.
6. Several agenda items and topics for consideration were identified for the Executive Committee and the Graduate Faculty for the next several months:
 - Discussions with the Provost
 - The upcoming NRC survey
 - Effective metrics for evaluating graduate programs (e.g., outcomes)
 - Course renumbering
 - OSP operations
 - GFC standing committees
 - Value-added activities (e.g., offering courses in scholarly ethics)
 - Effective promotional use of the Web
 - International programs and services
7. J. Marsden announced that Amanda Cagle has won a very prestigious American Association of University Women Dissertation Fellowship for the 2005-2006 academic year. She will spend the fellowship year finishing her dissertation, *Pushing From Their Hearts a New Song: The Negotiation of Contested Spaces in Contemporary Native American Women's Poetry*.
8. Adjournment was at 12:40 P.M.

Present: J.G. Clifford, D. Cournoyer, D. Lillo-Martin, J. Marsden, E. Pagoulatos, E. Smith, L. Strausbaugh, G. Anderson (Interim Vice Provost), J. Henkel (Associate Vice Provost), and T. Peters (Program Director)

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas B. Peters
Program Director