

Executive Committee
of the
Graduate Faculty Council

MINUTES

November 2, 2005
Whetten Graduate Center -- Giolas Conference Room
3:00 P.M.

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:07 P.M. Interim Vice Provost Gregory J. Anderson presided.
2. It was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve as distributed the minutes of the meeting of 10/5/05.
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. G. Anderson informed members of recent decisions concerning structural changes within the institution.
5. Members considered a request to extend access to travel funds to students pursuing the Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) degree in the fields of Art and Dramatic Arts. J. Henkel provided background information and noted that the M.F.A. is considered to be the terminal degree in these fields.

It was **moved** (E. Smith) and seconded (J. Marsden) that M.F.A. students in Art and Dramatic Arts will have access to travel funds in an amount up to \$1,000 per student, as do doctoral students, under the following conditions: (1) they must be in residence, i.e., on campus; (2) they must be registered as full-time students; (3) they must be in good academic standing and hold regular graduate status; and (4) they must have completed at least two years of work toward the M.F.A. degree.

The motion **passed** without dissent on a voice vote following brief discussion.

6. A request from the Department of Public Policy, located at the Hartford campus, to have a representative on the Graduate Faculty Council (GFC) was considered. Currently, Public Policy faculty members are included in a voting constituency which also includes faculty members in the Department of Political Science.

Following discussion, it was **moved** (D. Lillo-Martin) and seconded (J. Marsden) to add a seat to the Graduate Faculty Council for the Public Policy voting constituency beginning with the GFC elections in 2006 (three-year term beginning 1/1/07). The motion **passed** on a vote of three in favor, two opposed, and one abstention.

[J. Marsden left the meeting and L. Strausbaugh joined the meeting at this point.]

7. A request from the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology to change the name of field of study *Biophysics* to *Structural Biology and Biophysics* was introduced for consideration.

D. Lillo-Martin **moved** approval. The motion was seconded, discussed briefly, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote.

8. A request from the Department of Economics to approve the Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) grading option for *ECON 490 – Graduate Seminar* (1 credit) was considered.

It was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve the request.

9. An application to implement a Graduate Certificate Program in Occupational Health Psychology, considered initially at the 9/7/05 meeting and tabled at that time pending the receipt of additional information, was reintroduced for consideration. J. Henkel spoke about the additional information that had been received.

It was **moved**, seconded and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to remove the matter from the table.

With the matter removed from the table, the motion made at the 9/7/05 meeting to approve the application was again before the group. The motion **passed** without dissent on a voice vote.

10. T. Peters distributed copies of a draft survey instrument intended for distribution to departments and programs offering graduate degrees to solicit information concerning best practices and degree requirements. Members discussed the draft and provided feedback. Peters asked that any additional information be sent to him via e-mail. The instrument will be refined based on the feedback and sent out during December. Information elicited will be compiled and presented to the Executive Committee and Graduate Faculty Council early during the Spring 2006 semester.
11. J. Henkel spoke about the ongoing work to prepare for the NRC rankings of doctoral programs to be conducted AY 2006-07. He explained the early phase of the process of mapping faculty members to the fields established by the NRC for the survey. There was considerable discussion from which recommendations about how best to proceed emerged.
12. It was determined that there would not be a meeting of the Graduate Faculty Council on 11/16/05.
13. Adjournment was at 5:23 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), G. Maxwell (Associate Dean), and T. Peters (Program Director)

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas B. Peters
Program Director