

Graduate Faculty Council

MINUTES

February 21, 2007

Whetten Graduate Center, Room 200

3:00 P.M.

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:06 P.M. 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 November 15, 2006.
3. G. Anderson called attention to the *You Belong in Connecticut Loan Reimbursement Program* recently created by the General Assembly for Ph.D.'s in high technology fields working in Connecticut.
4. G. Anderson introduced Provost Peter Nicholls who addressed the Council concerning several matters including:
 - UConn's request to hire 175 new faculty to be phased in over five years (35 per year)
 - Two economic initiatives – the Eminent Faculty Program and the Center for Entrepreneurship
 - The proposed State budget
 - The Academic Plan
 - The Dubai initiative
5. Ruth Washington and Lee Aggison, both Associate Professors of Molecular and Cell Biology, reported on the successful diversity recruitment weekend held last month.
6. G. Anderson recognized E. Schultz for the purpose of introducing the following resolution:

Graduate Faculty Council Resolution Regarding Graduate Student Fellowships and Scholarships

Whereas, the talents of the highest-achieving graduate students is an essential component in the quality of graduate programs and in the accomplishments of the University's research and teaching enterprises at the University of Connecticut; and,

Whereas, the Outstanding Scholar Award is the University's solely merit-based means of attracting top candidates for graduate study; and,

Whereas, fewer than ten Outstanding Scholar Awards are available each year across all departments at the University; and,

Whereas, the Outstanding Scholar Award offers \$10,000 per year (\$4,000 fall, \$4,000 spring, \$2,000 summer) of study for three years, that must be matched with a half-time assistantship so that the student will receive medical benefits, a tuition waiver, and income comparable to other graduate students; and,

Whereas, many outstanding applicants to the University's graduate programs who have been offered Outstanding Scholar Awards have chosen to attend other graduate programs because of more competitive levels of support (and, in particular, those without obligatory assistantship obligations); and,

Whereas, the University's Academic Plan asserts "the University of Connecticut is committed to excellence in graduate and professional education" and "To attract graduate and professional students of the highest potential, the University of Connecticut should offer a package of stipends, health benefits, and fellowship opportunities that are competitive with those of our aspirational peers"; and,

Therefore be it resolved that the Graduate Faculty Council strongly urges the University, its Colleges, and the UConn Foundation to develop and aggressively pursue fundraising initiatives to increase the number of merit-based graduate fellowships and scholarships, and to increase the size of individual awards, so that the University will be more attractive to its most promising applicants.

It was **moved** (E.Schultz) and seconded to adopt the resolution. During brief discussion, Schultz and members agreed to amend the resolution by inserting the word *strongly* (included above) in the final paragraph. The motion to adopt the resolution **passed** without dissent on a voice vote.

7. G. Anderson called for nominations from the floor to fill one elected seat on the Graduate Faculty Council Executive Committee. Anderson noted that L. Strausbaugh, whose term has expired, has chosen not to seek reelection.

L. Strausbaugh nominated Arlene Albert, Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology. There were no other nominations. Albert was **elected** to a three-year term by acclamation.
8. G. Anderson informed members that the Compact between Post-Doctoral Fellows and Mentors has been posted to the Graduate School's Web site. He urged mentors to consider using the Compact with their post-docs.
9. J. Henkel updated members concerning progress that has been made in the preparations for the NRC assessments of doctoral programs. He distributed a summary of the UConn return rates for the Faculty Questionnaire, with a very large number well above the national average and many at 100%. There were many questions from the floor. Members thanked Henkel and those who worked with him for their efforts.
10. G. Anderson introduced Bruce Carlson, Managing Director of the Office of Technology Commercialization, who spoke about conflict of interest in terms of faculty consulting. A key goal is to create a UConn-wide (including the Health Center) conflict of interest policy in this regard that can work. He identified and discussed recent policy changes.
11. G. Anderson introduced Ilze Krisst, Assistant Vice Provost for Research, who spoke about E.P.A.-mandated ethics training for faculty members.
12. G. Anderson called attention to the *2006 Report of Sponsored Project Activity* and gave a Power Point presentation.
13. G. Anderson spoke about the Faculty Travel Program.
14. A. Frogley noted program assessment efforts currently underway at the undergraduate level and asked if graduate programs are to be involved. It was agreed to invite Assistant Vice Provost Eric Soulsby to a future meeting to speak on this topic.
15. G. Anderson noted that there will be a presentation concerning Facilities and Administration Rates at the March meeting.
16. J. Henkel informed members that the Office of Student Financial Aid has announced that summer 2007 Work Study money awarded to graduate students will be limited to \$1,000 – half the amount available in previous years.
17. Adjournment was at 5:01 PM.

Present: W. Abikoff, A. Albert, A. Anderson, J. Barnes-Farrell, A. Basu, T. Blank, M. Bock, J. Bourbeau, H. Brody, J. G. Clifford, S. De Guise, M-L. Fernandez, A. Frogley, W. Glenn, R. Grenier (alt), T. Kehle, J. Madaus, G. Robbins, M. Rubio, M. Rudnicki, C. Schaefer, E. Schultz, A. Shvartsman, W. Smith (alt), L. Strausbaugh, J. Troyer, K. Venkitanarayanan, A. Vias, W. Villemez (alt), R. Wilson (alt), B. Zhang, G. Anderson (*Vice Provost*), J. Henkel (*Associate Vice Provost*), and T. Peters (*Program Director*)

Regrets: C. Clark, D. Courmoyer, P. Neafsey (alt)

Speakers: Peter Nicholls, *Provost and Executive Vice President*
Lee Aggison, *Associate Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology*
Ruth Washington, *Associate Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology*
Bruce Carlson, *Managing Director of the Office of Technology Commercialization*
Ilze Krisst, *Assistant Vice Provost for Research*

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas B. Peters

Program Director