

Executive Committee
of the
Graduate Faculty Council

MINUTES

May 3, 2006
Whetten Graduate Center – Giolas Conference Room
3:00 P.M.

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:10 PM. Interim Vice Provost Gregory J. Anderson presided.
2. T. Peters provided an update concerning the Best Practices and Degree Requirements project. He reported that the initial phase is focusing on fields of study which offer programs leading to the doctorate in preparation for the upcoming NRC assessment of doctoral programs. He indicated that a database is being created for the posting of data to the Web and that the plan is to have the first data set posted by early Fall 2006. The database will be updated and maintained regularly. *[Peters left the meeting at this point.]*
3. E. Pagoulatos suggested only 4-5 hard copies of meeting materials should be prepared for future meetings. Members may obtain agendas and attachments electronically.
4. It was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve as distributed the minutes of the April 12, 2006 meeting.
5. It was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve the list of Plans of Study and Dissertation Proposals.
6. There was discussion concerning a proposal that is being developed at the Health Center to implement a Medical-School-based master's degree program in response to a CTSA requirement that such a program exist. NIH is reorganizing and this program would need to be in place for UConn to be able to compete for the next round of NIH funding. The proposal will be included on the agenda for a summer 2006 meeting.
7. Consideration was given to permitting Professor Emeritus Hans Laufer to serve for a period of approximately one year to allow a doctoral student to complete his Ph.D. program with Laufer as Major Advisor. Following discussion, it was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent that Dr. Laufer be permitted to serve in this capacity.
8. G. Maxwell presented a proposal from the School of Medicine entitled *Application for a Graduate Certificate of Research Experience in Biomedical Science*. This program would permit students holding bachelor's degrees who do not meet graduate admission standards to enroll in a 12-credit Graduate Certificate Program.

Several revisions were agreed upon, including –

- Changing GRAD to MEDS in item 2, line 2
- Modifying the the last sentence of first paragraph to read: “The student could enroll in this capacity for a maximum of 15 months, including two summers.”
- Revising item 3 to read: “This course sequence will fulfill the educational goals of the Certificate Program by providing the students with an intensive research experience of 15 months’ duration.”

Following discussion, it was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve the proposal as revised.

G. Anderson appointed G. Maxwell, J. Henkel and D. Cournoyer to meet over the summer to formulate a similar University-wide proposal to be considered in the Fall.

9. There was brief discussion about ongoing preparations for the upcoming NRC assessments of doctoral programs.

10. J. Henkel reported on the status of course renumbering. He indicated that the deadline for departmental responses was May 1. Those departments that did not respond will retain their current graduate-course sequences with the appropriate initial digit(s) added. Information concerning new course numbers will be distributed.
11. There was discussion about doctoral-degree-program productivity and related matters in light of the upcoming NRC assessments. In light of this discussion, members approved the following resolution without dissent:

Ph.D. Programs have been reviewed within the context of departmental reviews. However, established Fields of Study that do not meet the NRC threshold for graduate productivity will be reviewed by the Executive Committee of the Graduate School.
12. There were several updates and announcements.
13. The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Present: D. Cournoyer, D. Lillo-Martin, J. Marsden, E. Pagoulatos, E. Smith, L. Strausbaugh, G. Anderson, J. Henkel, G. Maxwell, T. Peters, and A. Michaud

Regrets: W. Abikoff, J.G. Clifford

Respectfully submitted,

Arlene J. Michaud