

## UNIVERSITY COUNCIL FOR GRADUATE STUDIES

### MINUTES, Meeting 364

5 May 2006

2:00 p.m., 177B Administration Building

**PRESENT:** L. Bennett (CAS), P. Betts (SUAP), L. Brooks (MIS), S. Chrietberg (T&D), C. Danehower (FCBE), J. Frazer (GSA), S. Griffin (EECE), R. Koch (NURS), D. Larsen (ESCI; Randy Cox, proxy), M. Logan (CCFA), J. Marchetta (MECH), C. Purtle (ART; M. Logan, proxy), E. Rakow (COE), T. Sayger (CEPR; E. Rakow, proxy), S. Slack (ENGR), D. Wark (AUSP), L. Weiss (HSS); C. Schiro-Geist (VPAA)K. Weddle-West (AVPGS),

**ABSENT:** D. Arant (UNIV), T. Dalle (ENGL), T. McInish (FIR); C. Serex (Curriculum Planning), J. Brownlee (Graduate School)

**GUESTS:** S. Maxwell, past president of Faculty Senate; P. Stevens, current president of Faculty Senate; new members R. Gudmestad (HIST), H. Perkins (ICL), Kristin Nelson (GSA)

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- 364.1 Approval of Minutes of Meeting 362, 3/3/06. L. Bennett moved (2/E. Rakow) that the minutes of meeting 362, 3-3-06, be approved. The motion was carried by voice vote.
- 364.2 Announcements: K. Weddle-West drew members attention to the orientation and workshop in August for new graduate students and asked them to distribute copies of the flyers to their constituents.
- 364.2.1 New Graduate Student Orientation will be August 21, 2006.
- 364.2.2 Teaching Effectiveness Workshop for Graduate Teaching Assistants will be August 23, 2006.
- 364.2.3 Dr. Weddle-West also announced a new doctoral fellowship program that replaces the Geier-funded TBR Minority Fellowships. The new program is aimed at first generation doctoral students who are underrepresented in their field. The deadline for academic year 2006-07 is 30 June 2006.
- 364.3 Old Business

364.3.1 3 + 2 Programs and Senior Combination Status: S. Slack described how this program works for Biomedical Engineering, which is currently working with Rhodes College and seeking to extend it to other institutions. He asked members to investigate how it could apply to their program in order to increase graduate enrollment. L. Bennett noted that Political Science is interested.

364.3.2 Faculty Senate Motion - Faculty Involvement in Academic Decisions: Pursuant to discussions at the February and March 2006 meetings (meetings 361 and 362) of the University Council for Graduate Studies, D. Wark moved (2/E. Rakow) that the following statement be approved. The motion was carried by voice vote. The statement reads:

Faculty in departments and programs to which the administration proposes programmatic or organizational changes must be consulted and made a part of the discussion throughout this process. The faculty recommends that a standing committee, jointly appointed by the Provost and the Faculty Senate, be developed to deal specifically with proposals to eliminate and/or restructure programs. The standing committee will be composed of one representative from each of the colleges and schools, and chaired by Dan Poje. The Faculty Senate will recommend 5 of the committee members and the Provost will recommend 4 of the committee members.

364.3.3 Calculation of GPA Discussion: D. Wark moved (2/J. Marchetta) that the proposed revision to the Graduate Catalog be approved. The motion was carried by voice vote. The statement under "Academic Regulations: Grading System" will include information from "Instructions for Completing Candidacy Forms" and will read:

*Grade Point Average:* Graduate students must maintain a 3.0 GPA ("B"). Grades of "D" and "F" will not apply toward any graduate degree, but will be computed in the GPA. No more than 7 hours of "C-," "C" or "C+" will be applied towards meeting degree requirements. Grades earned at another university will not be computed in the cumulative GPA. Grades in courses that are older than the time limitation for degree will be shown on the transcript but will not be included in the computation of the GPA used for graduation. Only courses that have been validated will count toward the degree (see below for validation policy). The overall GPA required for graduation, computed on all graduate level courses completed whether or not they are listed on the candidacy form, must also be a 3.00. Grades earned in the final semester may not be used to correct GPA deficiencies.

364.3.4 Taskforce Report on "Updating of Guidelines for Graduate Faculty Status" (Rakow, Slack, Chrietzberg, Hurley; 359.3.2; 361.3.1): The taskforce had two recommendations:

a) The first was collapsing the Affiliate and Adjunct categories, which gave rise to some discussion. In light of this discussion, K. Weddle-West asked P.

Betts to join the taskforce and asked Council members to take the proposal before their departments and College Councils. It will be brought before the University Council in October.

b) The second was to allow faculty in the post-retirement program to retain the Graduate Faculty status they had on retiring for the duration of the post-retirement program. M. Logan moved (2/L. Weiss) that this recommendation be approved. The motion was carried by voice vote.

364.4 New Business

364.4.1 COE Proposal for Change in Concentration: Student Personnel: E. Rakow presented this proposal to move this concentration from the Counseling and Educational Psychology Department to the Leadership Department, with consequent name change, where it is a better fit. M. Logan moved (2/R. Koch) that the proposal be approved. The motion was carried by voice vote.

364.4.2 Minimum Number of Hours Required for Dissertation: Michelle Stout pointed out that, unlike for theses, there is no University minimum number of hours required for the dissertation, although some colleges and department do have such minimums. This has led to a student taking advantage of University facilities and signing up for only one hour. There was a great deal of discussion on this subject. The consensus was that the minimum number of hours on the transcript should equate to the value of the work, but it should not be too expensive nor so low that there is no impetus to graduate. E. Rakow suggested a minimum of 9 hours, or one semester of full-time work. K. Weddle-West asked Council members to discuss this in their departments, deciding how many hours correctly reflect the amount of time faculty members devote to dissertation advising.

364.4.3 O Credit – Continuous Enrollment: C. Schiro-Geist proposed instituting a maintenance fee when dissertation hours have been fulfilled that would be a percentage of the fee for one credit hour in-state. However, this proposal would depend on the outcome of the above discussion and implications with TBR, library, information technology, and records keeping.

364.4.4 Health Insurance Survey Preliminary Results: The results from the first and second administration of the survey indicated that the majority of Graduate Assistants who responded have health insurance. Although the follow-up response rate was 44% (combined response rate from 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> mailings), more than 60% of respondents strongly agree with the need for affordable insurance.

- 364.4.5 Launching the New GRE : The launch will not take place until Autumn 2007, so students applying for Spring '07 should take the current version. Features include a deemphasis on vocabulary and reemphasis on reading and higher cognitive processes, 2500 sites, and 29 fixed administrations of the test to combat cheating. Scoring has been changed from the old 200-800 range to a one-point increment, from 110-150 they are now developing a concordance table that should be available in 2007. Attached is an announcement and new brochure from the GRE home page. Please click on the link, "Revised GRE General Test Brochure," for the latest information and share with your faculty .
- 364.4.6 New WES Evaluations for Selected Institutions in India: Three-year degrees from Indian institutions with an "A" rating or higher are now being accepted as equivalent to an American four-year degree. However, it is not clear what factors decide these rankings. Therefore, Karen asked council members to discuss with faculty in their departments and decide whether to consider these applications on a case-by-case basis as is done now (although the degree must be from an institution on WES's approved list, which varies by degree) or look more closely at Indian credentials.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nancy Hurley.