

GRADUATE FACULTY COUNCIL

MINUTES

December 13, 1989

United Nations Room, 3:00 P.M.

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 P.M. Dean T. Giolas presided.
2. The Chair announced that Dr. Sung Yen Feng, Professor of Marine Sciences, had very recently passed away. The Secretary was directed to write a letter of condolence to Mrs. Feng.
3. It was moved, seconded, and passed on a voice vote to approve as distributed the minutes of the May 4, 1989 meeting.

4. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Admissions (F. Trainor)

Discussions to date have centered on two major areas of concern: (1) recruitment and (2) consideration of possible modification of basic admissions criteria as set forth in the Graduate Bulletin {e.g., a 3.00 cumulative grade point average (CGPA) from institution "X" may not be fully equivalent to a 3.00 CGPA from institution "Y"}.

B. Curriculum and Courses (F. Bohlen)

Present graduate course approval procedures, involving the Curriculum and Courses Committees of the various Schools and Colleges within the University, as well as similar procedures used at other institutions are to be reviewed. Care will be taken to avoid redundancy in the course approval process. On another front, a detailed examination of regulations and requirements pertaining to graduate degree programs, as set forth in the Graduate Bulletin, is to be undertaken. Questions regarding the numbers of credits associated with various degree programs and mandated minimum standards for the Ph.D. will be addressed.

C. Faculty Standards (S. Greenspan)

Two broad areas of concern are under consideration: (1) certification and recertification of appointments to the Graduate Faculty and (2) internal review of graduate degree

programs. A provision in the By-Laws of The Graduate School establishes two levels of appointment to the Graduate Faculty-- (a) those who may serve as major advisors for master's students and as associate advisors for Ph.D. students and (b) those, who in addition to the above, also may serve as major advisors for Ph.D. students. Elements of a proposal now under consideration by the Committee include sunseting all graduate faculty appointments, establishment of a review process and related criteria for appointments and reappointments, and adoption of a durational-term approach to graduate faculty appointments. Concerning program review, a sub-committee soon will address the following: (1) specification of key graduate program elements and (2) specification a mechanism for conducting periodic review.

D. International Affairs (E. Pagoulatos)

The arrival of the new Dean for International Affairs is imminent. Potential areas of cooperation between the new Dean's Office and the Committee must be explored fully. There is agreement that the international graduate admissions process should remain within the purview of The Graduate School.

E. Graduate Student Support (J. Wilkie)

Four major areas of concern have emerged: (1) identification of sources of graduate student support within the University, (2) assessment of the extent to which University of Connecticut levels of support are competitive with other institutions, (3) examination of the rules and regulations governing support (e.g., possibility of coupling graduate assistantships and other forms of support), and (4) development of methods to impact the budget process vis`a vis graduate student support. A resolution pertaining to compensation for graduate assistants was presented (see #5 below).

F. Research Support (R. Crain)

Regulations and procedures regarding the following have been targeted for immediate study: computer purchases, travel, and purchasing. Long-range priorities include exploration of ways in which to improve: maintenance of research equipment, technical support, and the University's research climate (public relations).

G. Anderson expressed strong support for the work of the committee.

S. Greenspan suggested that the committee include space rental as a fourth target for immediate study.

- F. Carstensen pointed out that the University is losing out on potential research support because of cumbersome fiscal procedures and slow turnaround time.
- W. Berentsen suggested that the Committee add support for the Library to its priorities.
- T. Kehle spoke of the difficulties frequently encountered in making travel arrangements (especially international).

5. RESOLUTION ON COMPENSATION FOR GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

The Graduate Student Support Committee presented for consideration a resolution concerning graduate assistantship compensation.

J. Wilkie moved and G. Anderson seconded the following:

WHEREAS: Recent practice has linked the increase in graduate assistantship pay levels to the average percentage rate awarded AAUP through collective bargaining. This practice has not recognized the increases in costs which graduate students must bear--particularly University fees, room and board, and income taxes. Over the last three years, for instance, the pay for a master's candidate on a half-assistantship DECREASED from 5% above fixed University costs (fees, and room and board) to 11% below these costs. . . .

THEREFORE: The Graduate Faculty Council urges that assistantship-pay increments reflect increases in University costs and specifically that assistantship pay be adjusted as quickly as feasible so that a half-assistantship level I is set at a minimum of 10% above fixed University costs (fees, room, and seven-day board) for graduate students. The 10% above University costs would contribute to the costs of books, income taxes, and other necessary expenses. More critically, the Council requests that a new procedure be established whereby the Dean of the Graduate School is included in the process used to set the assistantship pay level, and that the Dean report the outcome to the Council.

Discussion ensued. The intent of the resolution is that the process it outlines would replace the current arrangement for determining stipend rates.

E. Pagoulatos recommended, J. Wilkie concurred, and it was agreed by consensus that the text of the motion be modified and condensed as follows:

The Graduate Faculty Council urges that graduate assistantship-pay increments reflect increases in University fees, room, and board as well as competitiveness of awards. More critically, the Council requests that a new procedure be established whereby the Dean of the Graduate School is included in the process used to set assistantship-pay levels, and that the Dean reports the outcome to the Council.

There was discussion concerning the modified wording. J. Koberstein recommended that the new procedure be phased in over time. F. Carstensen suggested that there be ranges within assistantship-stipend levels.


There was a call for the vote, and the motion (modified and condensed wording) passed without dissent on a voice vote.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- \* The Chair introduced the new Associate Dean of the Graduate School (Health Center), Bruce Koeppen.
- \* F. Carstensen spoke of the need to familiarize the Department of Higher Education with specific problems which the University faces, particularly in light of assessment activities which are being undertaken.

7. Adjournment was moved, seconded, and passed on a standing vote at 5:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas B. Peters  
Secretary

THOSE PRESENT:

Councillors

A. Abramson	N. Gray	E. Pagoulatos
L. Allen	S. Greenspan	W. Parker
D. Allinson	D. Herzberger	T. Roberts
G. Anderson	A. Hiskes	P. Rosenberg
W. Berentsen	T. Jones	R. Shaw
S. Biggs	N. Katter	J. Smith
W. Bohlen	T. Kehle	W. Smith
F. Carstensen	D. Kenny	L. Strausbaugh
R. Crain	J. Koberstein	F. Trainor
K. Creasy	B. Koeppen	J. Wilkie
P. Douglas	E. Kollar	P. Willett
G. Epling	M. Lerman	T. Yang
G. Frantz	B. Lovell	C. Zirakzadeh
A. Gelfand	R. Miller	

Graduate School

T. Giolas  
J. Henkel  
E. Sellers  
T. Peters