

GRADUATE FACULTY COUNCIL

MINUTES

February 28, 1996
United Nations Room, 3:00 P.M.

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:07 P.M. Associate Dean J. Henkel presided.
2. IT WAS MOVED, seconded, and PASSED without dissent on a voice vote to approve as distributed the minutes of the January 31, 1996 meeting. (Secretary's Note: P. Rosenberg should be added to the 1/31/96 list of attendees.)
3. The sole agenda item for the meeting was a discussion of strategies to enhance in a cost effective manner the visibility and the perceived quality of UConn doctoral programs (in light of the presentation at the 1/31/96 meeting on the recently-published National Research Council rankings). Highlights follow:
 - * Have programs evaluated by external reviewers (external reviews can generate data useful in administrative evaluations of programs and departments)
 - * Need reliable funding to conduct external reviews
 - * Emphasize and publicize the excellence of our doctoral programs
 - * Seek extensive press exposure of faculty expertise (e.g., through interviews)
 - * Have a competition for doctoral students in their final year to present their research and offer a prize
 - * Enhance the University's relationship with the Legislature and the people of Connecticut
 - * Host symposia and make certain that UConn faculty and doctoral students are able to participate in conferences and symposia held elsewhere (University and Research Foundation financial support is vital)
 - * Enhance UConn's ability to compete for the best graduate students
 - * Need to be able to award financial aid to graduate students (especially to new students) in a more timely manner
 - * Need more support for RA's as opposed to TA's
 - * Inform and educate the Legislature more effectively concerning graduate programs and research

- * Involve external experts in doctoral oral defenses (perhaps in prospectus reviews, as well)
- * Need to find a way to translate mentoring graduate students into a real component of faculty load (perhaps a course "equivalent" could be devised to provide a way to quantify this activity without burdening students with significant additional cost)
- * Need funding to send our best graduate students to special locations to pursue their research (e.g., distant libraries, archives, museums, specialized institutions, etc.)
- * Utilize technology more effectively (e.g. satellites)
- * Publish more in the right kinds of publications
- * Compile lists of former graduate students who live in and/or work in Connecticut and contribute to the tax base and to the intellectual life of the State.

4. Adjournment was at 4:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas B. Peters
Secretary

* * PRESENT * *

J. Allen	V. Cormier	V. Makowsky	D. Stern
T. Blank	P. Douglas	E. Murtha-Smith (alt)	L. Strausbaugh
R. Blei	G. Epling	G. Powell	B. Suess
C. Bruckerhoff	A.J. Goldberg	N. Rodriguez	J. Troyer
P. Clapp	E.J. Gubbins	P. Rosenberg	C.A. vanLear
R. Coons	J. Knox	S. Sacks	P. Willett
P. Cordeiro	H. Lasnik (alt)	W. Smith	T. Yang

Graduate School

J. Henkel
T. Peters