

GRADUATE FACULTY COUNCIL

MINUTES

April 17, 1991

United Nations Room, 3:30 P.M.

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:32 P.M. Dean T. Giolas presided.
2. It was moved (G. Anderson), seconded (J. Smith), and passed without dissent on a voice vote to approve as distributed the minutes of the November 28, 1990 meeting.
3. J. Henkel introduced recently-elected members who are new to the Council as well as those who have been reelected for a three-year term.
4. The Chair recognized J. Henkel for the purpose of moving the following:

AUTHORIZATION TO CONFER GRADUATE DEGREES --

It is recommended that the degrees of Master of Arts, Master of Business Administration, Master of Dental Science, Master of Fine Arts, Master of Music, Master of Public Affairs, Master of Public Health, Master of Science, Master of Social Work, and Doctor of Philosophy be conferred on those candidates who have satisfied all requirements and have been duly certified by The Graduate School for award of said degrees throughout the conferral periods ending May 18, 1991; August 31, 1991; and December 31, 1991.

There were several seconds. The motion passed without dissent on a voice vote.

5. T. Giolas briefly described for Councillors the functions of the various offices of The Graduate Center as well as many of the services offered.
6. PROGRAM REVIEW ISSUES --

T. Giolas introduced for discussion the study undertaken recently by the Department of Higher Education (DHE) the goal of which is to identify for further review degree programs whose levels of productivity were judged to be low. (Degree programs were flagged if the annual average number of degrees produced fell below three for master's programs and one for Ph.D. programs over the five-year period 1984-1989.) A total of 23 master's programs and 18 Ph.D programs at UConn were so identified by the DHE. A handout which outlines suggested guidelines for the review of these degree

programs was distributed. The suggested guidelines were prepared by Giolas and Associate Dean Paul Goodwin of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Giolas expressed his hope that the DHE would find acceptable the degree program review process being undertaken by The Graduate School as the means by which the University is permitted to respond to the DHE's "show-cause" letter.

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Concurrently, the Provost's Assessment and Planning Model for Academic Programs is underway. J. Smith is a member of this committee and made a presentation about its work. The highlights follow:

- * The committee believes that UConn should aspire to greatness as a first-rate public institution by promoting excellence in scholarship and research. Appropriate emphasis also must be given to the undergraduate instructional and service missions.
- * The committee seeks to gather data about academic programs on an annual basis and to develop a primarily quantitative database comprising uniform data sets. Graphic display to facilitate longitudinal examination of profiles is planned.
- * Smith stressed that the goal is to avoid the anxiety that inevitably would result if this were to be a comparative exercise among and between groups. This process will not permit, for example, the comparison of Music and Biology or French and Civil Engineering. Openness is to be an important element of the process.
- * The committee has discussed external validation as an element of the process.

The presentation was followed by comments and questions.

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Rounding out the discussion of program review, S. Greenspan, Chair of the Graduate Faculty Standards Committee, spoke about his Committee's work in this area. He noted the important contributions of the work of former Health Center Associate Dean Robert Jungas in the area of program review. Greenspan's main points follow:

- * The Committee envisions an INTERNAL review process which would make use of outside reviewers. The process would be "internal" because the University would be reviewing its own programs. That is to say, the reviews would not be

initiated by an external agency such as the DHE or an accrediting group.

- * Individual programs would be reviewed periodically—every five years, for example. Obviously, every program could not be reviewed each year.
- * The review team members might number five (three from UConn, two from outside). The team leader would be from UConn.
- * A preliminary report would be prepared by the program faculty prior to the review. The report would include data on such program elements as applicants, admissions criteria, resources, faculty (including vitae), curriculum, grants, publications, and the like.

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Following Greenspan's presentation, there was considerable discussion on the entire matter of program review.

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With respect to the DHE study to identify low-production degree programs for further study and possible action, L. Strausbaugh urged that the Council formulate a response which takes into account the study's serious flaws.

7. F. Carstensen voiced his objection to the fact that international students who attend a Division of International Affairs orientation program just before a semester begins are charged by the Division of Residential Life the convention rental rate of \$18 per night rather than the student rental rate of \$9 per night. He noted that the Graduate Residence is not open early enough for students to take advantage of orientation and other pre-semester activities and programs.
8. T. Giolas made two announcements: (1) councillors were urged to join GFC standing committees, and (2) councillors were urged to participate in The Graduate School's 50th Anniversary celebration at the Old State House in Hartford on April 29, 1991.
9. Adjournment was at 5:12 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas B. Peters
Secretary

THOSE PRESENT:

Councillors

A. Abramson	A. Hiskes	G. Punj
G. Anderson	T. Jones	P. Rosenberg
B. Bible	K. Kazerounian	R. Shaw
F. Carstensen	T. Kehle	J. Smith
R. Colwell	J. Knox	C. Spencer
D. Cournoyer	J. Koberstein	L. Strausbaugh
E. Cromley (alt.)	D. Krutchkoff	J. Thibodeau
A. Farina	M. Lerman	J. Wilkie
L. C. Faustman	B. Lovell	T. Yang
J. Gatta	W. Parker	C. Zirakzadeh
S. Greenspan		

Graduate School

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