

Executive Committee
of the
Graduate Faculty Council (GEC)

MINUTES
March 21, 2005
Whetten Graduate Center – Giolas Conference Room
1:30PM

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:35 P.M.
2. It was brought to the attention of the GEC that the second sentence of section 4 in the January 31, 2005 minutes was phrased incorrectly. GEC agreed without dissent that the following sentence; "The Committee noted that the percent of doctoral students graduating from UConn without debt was 10 points lower than the nationwide average." Should be amended to read "The Committee noted that the percent of doctoral students graduating from UConn without debt was 10 points better than the nationwide average."

It was moved, seconded, and passed without dissent to approve the amended minutes of the 1/31/2005 meeting.

3. Plans of Study and Dissertation Proposals: Dr. Henkel reminded the committee that when using outside referees for graduate student proposals, the identity of the outside resource should not be disclosed to the student.
4. It was moved, seconded, and passed without dissent to approve the Doctoral Plans of Study and Dissertation Proposals.
5. The Dean asked the GEC to consider an "Invest in Your Future" program for doctoral students. The Dean would like to seek fellowships/internships for graduate students from interested industries (biotech, insurance, engineering, pharmaceutical, etc.). Such a program could provide support for graduate students in a variety of areas, help students learn about career options, and encourage university/industry interactions.

For such a program to work, the University of Connecticut (i.e. Graduate Faculty Council Executive Committee and the Dean) need to set goals and optimal (and acceptable) policies carefully. In the discussion these points were generally agreeable:

- 1) Companies could define the areas in which they wanted to support training.
- 2) Companies could suggest key areas of generalized training, like research ethics and compliance with federal regulations (two mentioned by Pfizer).
- 3) Graduate programs, (in areas of interest) would nominate students. GEC (or a subgroup) would select the best students, a process similar to the Outstanding Scholars Program.
- 4) Selected graduate students might not have to select an advisor until after rotating through 2 or 3 laboratories (professors) in the fall semester.
- 5) Selected graduate students might be required to take some common courses in the area of interest to the industry (i.e. communications, regulations, and business, etc).
- 6) Companies would pay graduate assistant for first 2 years (i.e. 9 months – ½ time) and full tuition (out-of-state) for 2 years. They would also pay for summer internship in the first or second year (2 ½ to 3 months) at the company.

- 7) The faculty major advisor of the student would have to commit to pay for the rest of the graduate student's training with an RA (Research Assistantship), TA (Teaching Assistantship) and/or fellowship.
 - 8) The choice of the thesis topic is not to be affected by the company.
 - 9) The program is for doctoral (not masters) students. We must be careful that students return after the internship.
 - 10) Companies will be informed when the student passes the proposal prelim and when they graduate.
 - 11) It is anticipated that the GEC would generally pick students without a masters but this may need modification.
6. UConn's Consulting Policy mentions use of students in classes and employment by the professor. It does not mention the conflict-of-interest that occurs when a graduate student is employed by his or her major professor's business. Bruce Carlson and the head of the UConn Foundation Research Development group think this is a problem. Rachel Rubin (our new Director of Compliance, Storrs and Regional Campuses & Health Center) believes the policy needs revision.

Gerald Maxwell and Emilio Pagoulatos will serve as a review committee. GEC after discussion thought the revisions of the consulting policy should be fairly small in terms of text changes, but make it clear that graduate students need protection.

A motion was made that the GEC explore revising the policy for "Use of Students In Outside Employment". Seven agreed; 3 abstained.

Gerald Maxwell and Emilio Pagoulatos **will present a revised policy at the next GEC meeting**. This will eventually be sent to the Conflict of Interest Committee, the Provost, and Rachel Rubin / Mike Walker (as compliance officials).

7. Faculty Senate is developing a policy on interdepartmental undergraduate programs. Should GEC develop a policy on interdepartmental graduate programs?

GEC thought that the draft document for interdepartmental undergraduate program guidelines would not be useful in the development of the interdepartmental graduate program guidelines. The campus needs to be reminded of the flexibility of the graduate program Fields of Study and that dissertation committees generally are interdisciplinary in nature.

FOLLOW UP: The next Graduate Faculty Council meeting will focus on interdisciplinary research.

8. GEC reopened the discussion on faculty's ability to have a student who is auditing a course dismissed from the class when he/she does not attend classes (review of item 7 of the GEC minutes of 7-20-04).

At its 7-20-04, GEC approved this motion:

- a. Graduate Students have permission granted by the instructor in order to audit a class;
- b. Graduate Students should not audit classes for which they do not attend and should not "sit in" on classes for which they do not register as an auditor.
- c. Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) grading of such audits should be allowed. (Follow up has determined that our computer system cannot allow s/u grading on audited classes).

Since then Henkel learned that the PeopleSoft system will not allow faculty to grade "audit" students.

Accordingly a motion was made to replace the section (c) of the motion passed at the 7-20-04 meeting with:

c) The instructor may disenroll a student not meeting the auditing criteria set forth by the instructor.

Seven voted in favor; one abstained.

9. The University Senate approved renumbering of courses on March 14, 2005, after initial skepticism, GEC thought it would be helpful to advise graduate programs on a few "standardized" points, i.e.

(Dissertation Research be 6X99, Masters Research be 5X99, etc.)

The Associate Dean of the Graduate School will review and report to the GEC before August 2005 about suggested numbers for course development and internships.

10. Adjournment 3:40 PM.

Present: J.G. Clifford, D. Herzberger, D. Cournoyer, J. Marsden, E. Pagoulatos, E. Smith, L. Strausbaugh, G. Maxwell, J. Henkel, J.L. Greger

Respectfully submitted,

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