

Executive Committee  
of the  
Graduate Faculty Council

**MINUTES**

December 12, 2007  
Whetten Graduate Center – Giolas Conference Room  
Noon.

1. The meeting was called to order at 12:05 P.M. Associate Vice Provost James G. Henkel presided.
2. It was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve as distributed the minutes of the November 6, 2007 meeting.
3. It was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve the list of Plans of Study and Dissertation Proposals.
4. J. Henkel introduced Jean Main, Director of the Office of Financial Aid, who was present to discuss two matters with members – summer Work Study for graduate students and notifications to students concerning satisfactory academic progress toward degree completion.

In terms of summer Work Study, Main noted that the situation that had caused last year's 50% reduction in the summer allocation of Work Study funding for graduate students has passed. For summer 2008, she said that the plan is to restore the normal \$2,000 target for summer Work Study awards for graduate students. Approximately 150 graduate students have received such awards in recent summers. It was agreed to disseminate information about the summer Work Study program via graduate-student listserv.

Main also spoke about *Satisfactory Academic Progress* and explained what it is. Generally speaking, master's-degree students are eligible for financial aid for up to 45 credits of academic work and doctoral students for up to 90 credits of academic work. The limit for a specific degree program is established as 50% more than the normally-required number of credits. It was noted that the wording of some communications from the Office of Financial Aid concerning students who were approaching the credit limit had caused alarm. It was agreed to modify the wording of such communications for future use.

5. A request from the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology seeking approval of Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading for *MCB 339 – Graduate Seminar in Biochemistry* was considered. It was **moved** (W. Abikoff), seconded (M.A. Doyle and E. Schultz), and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve the request.
6. J. Henkel updated members concerning recent progress made by the NRC in completing its ranking of research doctoral programs. He noted that results should be available by late Spring 2008.  
(G. Anderson joined the meeting at this point.)
7. There were several updates and announcements.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 1:49 P.M.

*Present:* W. Abikoff, J. Barnes-Farrell, J. G. Clifford, S. De Guise, M. A. Doyle, J. Marsden, E. Schultz, G. Anderson (*Vice Provost*), J. Henkel (*Associate Vice Provost*), L. Klobutcher (*Associate Dean*), and T. Peters (*Program Director*)

*Not attending:* A. Albert

*Speaker:* Jean Main, Director of the Office of Financial Aid

Respectfully submitted,  
Thomas B. Peters  
Program Director