

Executive Committee
of the
Graduate Faculty Council

MINUTES

February 4, 2009
Whetten Graduate Center – Giolas Conference Room
3:00 PM

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:04 P.M. Associate Vice Provost James Henkel presided.
2. It was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve as distributed the minutes of the meeting of January 14, 2009.
3. Jean Main, Director of Student Financial Aid, spoke with members concerning several matters including:
 - The availability of need-based aid for graduate students, particularly aid for Summer 2009;
 - Aid in general should be available without interruption through 2010;
 - “Grad Plus” loans have served graduate students well and have eliminated the need for them to utilize private loans;
 - All students receiving aid this year have to sign a new master promissory note; and
 - The University is putting out an RFP to make alternative loan opportunities available to students.
4. Members considered a proposal to implement a Master of Science degree program in *Financial Risk Management*. The proposal was introduced at the January meeting. It was **moved** (J. Barnes-Farrell) and seconded (J. G. Clifford) to approve the proposal. J. Henkel provided background information. Concern was expressed that ten new courses need to be developed to mount the program. It was noted that the proposal is timely in light of present difficulties in the financial markets. Following discussion, the motion **passed** without dissent on a voice vote.
5. Members considered proposals to implement a dual D.M.D. / Master of Science in *Clinical and Translational Research* degree program as well as a dual D.M.D. / Master of Public Health degree program. The proposals were introduced at the January meeting. L. Klobutcher provided background information. Following discussion, it was **moved** (J. G. Clifford), seconded (J. Marsden), and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve both proposals as presented.
6. Members considered a proposal to implement a Graduate Certificate Program in *Survey Research*. The proposal was introduced at the January meeting. J. Henkel provided background information. It was **moved** (J. Marsden), seconded (J. G. Clifford and M. Aindow), and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve the proposal as presented.
7. Members discussed further the matter of whether or not conferral of a doctoral degree should be delayed if submission of the Dissertation Proposal to the Graduate School is not timely. The matter was discussed initially at the January meeting. At present, the Dissertation Proposal must be approved by the Graduate School at least three months prior to the oral defense of the dissertation. In isolated recent cases, the Dissertation Proposal has been submitted for final approval just weeks (or even days) prior to the oral defense. J. Henkel asked members for further guidance and clarification.

Following discussion, members agreed by consensus to approve for publication the following modification in the wording of the regulation:

Ordinarily, it is expected that a Dissertation Proposal will be prepared and fully approved before preparation of the dissertation is well underway.

It was noted that the use of human and/or animal subjects as well as any use of human stem cells will necessitate full approval of the Dissertation Proposal before the research is begun. In addition, there were expressions of interest in considering the linking of full approval of the Dissertation Proposal to eligibility for the highest-level GA stipend rate.

8. Members were advised of the following:

- The Vice President for Research search has been halted due to the budget situation.
- The committee to evaluate graduate programs has been formed and will receive its charge at the group's first meeting.
- The release of the results of the recent NRC assessments of doctoral programs is expected soon.

9. It was agreed to call a meeting of the Graduate Faculty Council for February 18, 2009. The agenda will include updates concerning the state of the Graduate School, the budget, the setting of tuition rates for 2009-10, formation of the committee to evaluate graduate programs, and the anticipated release of the results of the recent NRC assessments of doctoral programs.

10. It was agreed to invite graduate students to a future meeting of the Executive Committee for discussion of matters of graduate student concern.

11. Adjournment was at 4:57 PM.

Present: M. Aindow, J. Barnes-Farrell, J. G. Clifford, J. Marsden, J. Henkel (*Associate Vice Provost*), L. Klobutcher (*Associate Dean*), and T. Peters (*Program Director*)

Regrets: W. Abikoff, A. Albert, S. De Guise, and M.A. Doyle

Speaker: Jean Main, *Director of Student Financial Aid*

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas B. Peters

Program Director