

**Executive Committee  
of the  
Graduate Faculty Council**

**MINUTES**

**March 14, 2003**

**Whetten Graduate Center – Giolas Conference Room  
2:00 P.M.**

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:08 P.M. Vice Provost Janet L. Greger presided.
2. There was discussion about health insurance coverage for graduate assistants, about the upcoming NRC rankings of doctoral programs, and about computer entry of admissions follow-up and alumni tracking data.
3. Catherine Ross, Director of Teaching Assistant Programs in the Institute for Teaching and Learning, was introduced. She spoke to the Committee about the Ordinate PhonePass Spoken English Test. Several advantages of this test were discussed, including: reasonable cost, ease of taking (can be taken any time over the phone), and quick scoring (scores are available just a short time after test is taken). Students who actually enroll at UConn would be required to repeat the test once they are here to provide a means by which to verify the initial score. There was general agreement among those present that this Web-based test should be considered seriously for regular use at UConn to test the spoken English ability of international applicants and students, particularly those who will be teaching. A specific question arose about the validation of this test. Ross explained that the information is available on Ordinate's Web site.

It was agreed that members will be asked to examine the validation data and to provide feedback within two weeks as to whether or not use of this test at UConn is recommended.

4. It was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve as distributed the minutes of the 2-14-2003 meeting.
5. It was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve the list of Plans of Study and Dissertation Proposals.
6. There was extensive discussion about the work of the three Task Forces that have been formed to examine major components of the operation and functions of the Graduate School. These include: Admissions and Records, Graduate Program Review, and Graduate School Student Services. These groups will continue to meet regularly throughout the semester.

Specifically, lists of discussion points and questions were generated for each of the Task Forces. These lists will serve to guide the deliberations of the groups in the weeks ahead.

7. It was agreed to call a meeting of the Graduate Faculty Council for March 26, 2003. The agenda will include the annual authorization to confer degrees and continued discussion with Karla Fox and Richard Brown, Co-Chairs of the Academic Plan Task Force.
8. J. Greger noted that the next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>.
9. Adjournment was at 4:30 PM.

**Present:** A. Baldwin, J.G. Clifford, D. Cournoyer, D. Herzberger, J. Marsden, E. Pagoulatos, E. Smith, L. Strausbaugh, J. Greger (Vice Provost), G. Maxwell (Associate Dean), and T. Peters (Assistant Dean)

**Regrets:** G. Anderson and J. Henkel

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas B. Peters  
Secretary