

Graduate Faculty Council

MINUTES

September 20, 2006
Whetten Graduate Center, Room 200
3:00 P.M.

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:03 P.M. Vice Provost Gregory J. Anderson presided.
2. Members introduced themselves.
3. It was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve as distributed the minutes of the meeting of April 19, 2006.
4. Nancy Wallach, Associate Director of the Office of Research Compliance, addressed the Council concerning the importance of making timely application to the IRB whenever human subjects are involved in any way in students' dissertation research. She spoke of serious difficulties which arise when IRB approval is not obtained in a timely manner. Discussion ensued. S. Roe noted that the section formerly included on the Dissertation Proposal approval cover sheet which addressed the use of human or animal subjects in dissertation research had been effective in conveying this message to faculty and students and recommended that the section be restored to the form.
5. G. Anderson spoke about benefit rates and options for post doc hires and about graduate-enrollment trends nationally and at UConn.
6. G. Anderson noted that an elected seat (with a term expiring 1/31/2009) on the GFC Executive Committee is currently vacant, and he called for nominations from the floor. Philip Streifer, Educational Leadership, and Eric Schultz, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, were nominated. It was **moved** (L. Strausbaugh), seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to close nominations.

Since the nominees were not present, T. Torgerson **moved** that the vote be by mailed ballot to allow the two nominees to prepare brief, written statements concerning their interest in serving on the Executive Committee. The motion was seconded and it **passed** on a voice vote.
7. G. Anderson informed the Council that Associate Vice Provost and Associate Dean Jim Henkel is up for a five-year review this semester and that he wishes to stand for reappointment. Anderson noted that a committee has been formed to assist in the review process. Committee members include Diane Lillo-Martin (Chairperson), Kathleen Segerson, and John Clausen.
8. G. Anderson spoke about NIH and NSF funding. He noted that UConn has experienced a marked increase in R&D expenditures. Discussion turned on a number of related topics. S. Roe suggested that data be gathered concerning NEH, Guggenheim, and other similar fellowship awards to provide a basis for comparing UConn to other universities in the areas of the humanities and social sciences. Roe and J. Marsden volunteered to undertake the project.
9. J. Henkel spoke about ongoing preparation for the upcoming NRC assessments of doctoral programs. Inclusion criteria for faculty were discussed in detail. The current iteration of the faculty questionnaire was viewed on the Web and discussed. G. Anderson recognized Henkel for his work to date in preparing UConn for the assessment process.
10. T. Peters spoke about the Graduate commencement ceremony, particularly with respect to a variety of ceremony options being considered for Spring 2007.
11. There were several updates and announcements.
12. Adjournment was at 4:51 P.M.

Present: W. Abikoff, M. Accorsi, L. Achenie, J. Barnes-Farrell, M. Bernstein, T. Blank, J. Bourbeau, H. Brody, J. G. Clifford, D. Cournoyer, M. Daniels (alt), S. De Guise, M-L. Fernandez, R. Fitzgerald (alt), A. Frogley, P. Goes, D. Gregorio, J. Madaus, C. Maresh, J. Marsden, R. McAvoy, S. McBrearty, P. Neafsey (alt), S. Rajasekaran, S. Roe, M. Rudnicki, C. Schlichting (alt), L. Strausbaugh, G. Taylor, T. Torgersen, R. Walikonis, Y. Wang, S. Winter, G. Anderson (*Vice Provost*), J. Henkel (*Associate Vice Provost*), and T. Peters (*Program Director*)

Regrets: J. Dovidio and P. Streifer

Speaker: Nancy Wallach, *Associate Director of the Office of Research Compliance*

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas B. Peters
Program Director