

Executive Committee  
of the  
Graduate Faculty Council

**MINUTES**

September 6, 2006  
Whetten Graduate Center – Giolas Conference Room  
3:00 P.M.

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:06 P.M. Vice Provost Gregory J. Anderson presided. He introduced two new members of the Committee: Janet Barnes-Farrell from Psychology and Luke Achenie from Chemical Engineering.
2. It was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve as distributed the minutes of the June 6, 2006 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. A proposal from the Department of Kinesiology to change the name of Area of Concentration *Social Science of Sport and Leisure* to *Sport Management and Sociology* was considered. Following brief discussion, it was **moved to table** the proposal until input is available from the Department of Sociology. The motion was seconded and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote. J. Henkel will report when the input has been received.
5. G. Anderson distributed copies of and discussed information concerning a recent study which reported a significant finding concerning gender-based content differences in letters of recommendation.
6. J. Henkel updated members concerning the ongoing preparations for the NRC assessments of doctoral programs. There was discussion about faculty inclusion criteria. Copies of the most recent draft of the Program Questionnaire were circulated and discussed briefly.
7. There was discussion about the Committee's practice with respect to the consideration of proposals for new academic programs. G. Anderson spoke in favor of taking final action on such proposals only after they are introduced (as an agenda item) and discussed at a previous meeting.

It was **moved** (D. Cournoyer) that any proposal for a new academic program or that any request for termination of an existing academic program appear initially as a discussion item on a Committee meeting agenda and then as an action item on the agenda for the next (or a subsequent) meeting. The motion was seconded and it **passed** without dissent on a voice vote.

T. Peters will follow-up to make certain that the Committee takes final action in all cases.

8. A proposal was introduced to implement a new Ph.D. Area of Concentration to be called *Occupational and Environmental Health Sciences* under Field of Study *Public Health*.

It was **moved** (J. Marsden) and seconded to approve the proposal.

Discussion ensued concerning the interdisciplinary nature of the proposed program, the research component, the anticipated program size, the productivity of similar programs at other institutions, the experience to date with the first Ph.D. Area of Concentration (*Social and Behavioral Health Sciences*) that was approved, and that a financial analysis should be requested concerning the proposal. J. Henkel noted that the goal is to attract full-time students for this program.

The matter was tabled automatically (per item #7 above) and will appear as an action item on the next agenda.

9. A proposal to implement a Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) degree program was introduced.

It was **moved** (E. Pagoulatos) and seconded (J. G. Clifford) to consider the proposal.

Discussion ensued concerning the need for additional faculty and new courses – including four of the five identified as core courses. It was noted that the present M.S. degree in Nursing would be phased out and the D.N.P. would replace it. Further clarification was requested in terms of the three-year internal review process that is outlined in the proposal.

There was a consensus to return the proposal to the School of Nursing for further development, and it was **moved** (L.Strausbaugh), seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to do so.

10. A proposal to implement post-master's Graduate Certificate "tracks" in Nursing was introduced for consideration.

It was **moved** (J. Marsden) and seconded (J. G. Clifford) to consider the proposal.

Discussion ensued. J. Henkel noted that the purpose of the proposal is to provide retraining opportunities for practicing nurses. A suggestion was made that the School of Nursing undertake a "global" review of its degree and certificate programs in terms of how they fit together. It was noted that the proposal is well-prepared.

The matter was tabled automatically (per item #7 above) and will appear as an action item on the next agenda. In the interim, J. Henkel will review the proposal.

11. T. Peters provided an update concerning the Best Practices and Degree Requirements project. He reported that the design of the Web database has been finalized in consultation with Webmaster Kyle Pelletier and that the posting of data to the Web will begin soon.
12. T. Peters spoke briefly about the types of commencement ceremonies held at many of UConn's peer institutions. Several hold separate undergraduate and graduate ceremonies while others award undergraduate and graduate degrees at combined ceremonies. A few of the institutions hold individual school and college ceremonies to recognize degree candidates. The annual frequency of ceremonies ranged from one to four.

There was discussion about current arrangements for commencement ceremonies at UConn. There was agreement that the separateness and the present character of the annual graduate ceremony should be preserved. Members stressed the importance of maximizing the individual recognition of degree candidates during the ceremony. It was agreed to add this as a discussion item to the next Graduate Faculty Council agenda.

13. There was discussion about post-doc benefit options. It was recommended that Human Resources prepare a table which makes clear the specifics of each option.
14. It was agreed to call a meeting of the Graduate Faculty Council for Wednesday, September 20, 2006.
15. There were several updates and announcements.
16. The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 P.M.

*Present:* W. Abikoff, L. Achenie, J. Barnes-Farrell, J. G. Clifford, D. Cournoyer, J. Marsden, E. Pagoulatos, L. Strausbaugh, G. Anderson (*Vice Provost*), J. Henkel (*Associate Vice Provost*), G. Maxwell (*Associate Dean*), and T. Peters (*Program Director*)

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas B. Peters  
Program Director