

Executive Committee
of the
Graduate Faculty Council

MINUTES

December 13, 2006
Whetten Graduate Center – Giolas Conference Room
3:00 P.M.

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:04 P.M. Vice Provost Gregory J. Anderson presided.
2. G. Anderson introduced Ilze Krisst, Assistant Vice Provost for Research, who spoke with members about an effort underway to draft modifications to the current conflict of interest and consulting policies. The new consulting policy, if approved, would limit consulting activity to faculty members. There was discussion about including specific criteria in the draft document concerning permissible parameters for time to be devoted to consulting activities.
3. It was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve as distributed the minutes of the November 1, 2006 meeting.
4. It was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve the list of Plans of Study and Dissertation Proposals.
5. A proposal to implement a Graduate Certificate Program in Human Rights was introduced for consideration. It was **moved** (L. Strausbaugh) and seconded (J.G. Clifford) to approve the proposal. There was discussion concerning many topics including administrative oversight, programmatic consistency and coordination between Storrs and the Law School, possible expansion of the target audience to include doctoral students in schools and colleges beyond CLAS, and involvement of the School of Social Work. It was agreed that J. Henkel would seek additional information.

It was **moved** and seconded to table further consideration of and action on the proposal until the additional information is available. The motion **passed** without dissent on a voice vote.

6. Members considered a request received from the Psychology Department to approve the Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory (S/U) grading option for a proposed new 400's-level course. The title of the newly-developed course is *Research Seminar in Clinical Psychology*.

Following brief discussion, it was **moved** and seconded to approve S/U grading for the new course contingent upon approval of the course itself by the Curricula and Courses Committee of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The motion **passed** without dissent on a voice vote.

7. A draft resolution concerning graduate student fellowships and scholarships, submitted by E. Schultz for consideration by the full Graduate Faculty Council (GFC), was introduced. Schultz explained that the resolution, if adopted by the GFC, would call upon the University as well as the UConn Foundation “. . . to develop and pursue aggressively fundraising initiatives to increase the amount and number of merit-based graduate fellowships” Members agreed to a few minor edits and authorized inclusion of the resolution on the agenda for the next GFC meeting.
8. G. Anderson introduced Veronica Makowsky, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education; Susan Nesbitt, Director of the Center for Continuing Studies (CCS); and Peter Diplock, Program Director and Associate Extension Professor in the CCS. They were present to update members concerning CCS offerings—particularly the Master of Professional Studies (M.P.S.) degree program. The M.P.S. degree currently is offered in four Fields of Study: Homeland Security Leadership, Human Resource Management, Humanitarian Services Administration, and Occupational Safety and Health Management. Diplock offered some demographic information concerning the four current M.P.S. cohorts. Makowsky, Nesbitt, and Diplock each spoke for several minutes about various aspects of the newly-constituted CCS and its academic programs. Teaching faculty are

mentored. Coherency and sustainability of programs are important priorities. Critical mass and accreditation matters also are important considerations. It was recommended that the CCS engage the Executive Committee and the full Graduate Faculty Council (GFC) in conversation concerning CCS's quest to develop emerging interdisciplinary programs. It was noted that CCS and perhaps other units may need *ex-officio* representation on the GFC.

9. A draft document entitled *Grievance Procedure for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Fellows* was introduced for consideration. J. Henkel noted that the draft document was the result of the work of an ad hoc task force (members included James Bourbeau, Garry Clifford, Jim Henkel, Tom Peters, and Emilio Pagoulatos). It was agreed to delete the final two bulleted examples under "Grounds for grievances . . ." and then to seek input from the Deans and from the Office of the Attorney General. Once that input has been received and any resulting edits have been completed, the final version of the draft document is to be placed on the next meeting agenda of the Graduate Faculty Council for consideration and action.

It was **moved** (E. Schultz), seconded (J.G. Clifford), and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote that the draft as edited should be submitted to the Office of the Attorney General for scrutiny and any necessary input and then be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the Graduate Faculty Council meeting for final approval.

10. G. Anderson called attention to a document entitled *Research and Graduate Education – Goals for 2006-2007*, which was an attachment to the agenda for the meeting. Anderson explained the document and there was brief discussion concerning it.
11. T. Peters reported on the Best Practices and Degree Requirements Database project. He distributed samples of Web pages that illustrate the appearance of the final database on the Web. During discussion about the project, it was agreed to rename the database the "Graduate Degree Program Inventory." Peters will report at the next GFC meeting concerning the project.
12. It was agreed to call a meeting on the Graduate Faculty Council in early 2007.
13. J. Henkel updated members on the NRC Assessment of Doctoral Programs, particularly with respect to the Faculty questionnaire being a bit late and the fact that the NRC is planning to run statistics concerning the program assessments.
14. Adjournment was at 5:27 P.M.

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

Speakers: Ilze Krisst, *Assistant Vice Provost for Research*
Veronica Makowsky, *Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education & Regional Campus Administration*
Susan Nesbitt, *Director of the Center for Continuing Studies*
Peter Diplock, *Associate Professor (M.P.S. Program)*

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas B. Peters
Program Director