

Graduate Faculty Council

MINUTES

April 16, 2008

Hugh Clark Meeting Room -- Whetten Graduate Center, Room 200
3:00 P.M.

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:04 P.M. Vice Provost Gregory J. Anderson presided.
2. It was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve as distributed the minutes of the meeting of March 19, 2008.
3. R. B. Morrill reported that the Graduate Student Senate has passed a resolution in opposition to the recent proposal that graduate-student tuition be charged to grants. There was discussion about the proposal.
4. J. Henkel provided figures concerning applications to the Graduate School, enrollment, and degree conferrals for the current year. A record number of applications have been received this year – approximately 8,700. There has a 17% increase in the number of international applicants. International applicants account for approximately half of the total of 8,700. In terms of doctoral degrees conferred this year, Henkel noted that the number will top 300. Conferral rates for master's degrees are similar to last year.
5. G. Anderson introduced Lee Aggison and Ruth Washington, noting that Aggison was recently appointed as an Associate Dean of the Graduate School. Anderson gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting current recruitment trends, especially significant increases in several categories of minority recruitment.

Aggison and Washington gave a presentation entitled *Recruitment and Events and Successes; New Ideas*, which provided information about their national and international recruitment efforts. Washington spoke about the NSF and NIH Student Supplement Programs and how to apply. Their next recruitment weekend is planned for late-November 2008. One of their goals this year is to increase the number of native Americans who apply for admission. Aggison noted that finding funding for these kinds of programs is always a challenge. STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) disciplines have been a primary focus of these effort, but the plan is to place greater emphasis on social sciences and the humanities in the future. Another priority for the future is to study the retention rates of students who are admitted as result of these efforts.

6. There was discussion about *The Academic Plan*. It was noted that enhancing interdisciplinary activities, increasing funding for research, and adding to the endowment are major goals of the plan.
7. G. Anderson spoke about Research Advisory Council (RAC) awards in the form of internally-funded grants. He noted that these internal awards help in obtaining external funding, and he provided figures concerning recent proposals and resulting awards. During the course of discussion, it was noted that the focus should be on writing better proposals rather than more proposals and that hiring professional grant writers might help to improve the track record in terms of grant receptivity.
8. There were several updates and announcements.
9. Adjournment was at 4:43 P.M.

Present: W. Abikoff, A. Anderson, W. Bailey, J. Bobaljik, H. Brody, J.G. Clifford, J. Cole, S. De Guise (alt), A. Donahue, V. Duffy, G. Dunne, N. Garrick, J. Glaz, R. Grenier, T. Hunter, J. Kaminski, O. Karan, T. Kehle, E. Markus, C. Michaels, R.B. Morrill, T.J. Peters, G. Risatti, M. Rubio, M. Rudnicki, C. Sanders (alt), L. Strausbaugh, T. Torgersen, C.A. VanLear, and S. Winter; A. Albert, M.A. Doyle, and J. Marsden (*Executive Committee*); and G. Anderson (*Vice Provost*), J. Henkel (*Associate Vice Provost*), T.B. Peters (*Program Director*)

Speakers: Lee Aggison, *Associate Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology*
Ruth Washington, *Associate Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology*

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas B. Peters
Program Director