

Executive Committee
of the
Graduate Faculty Council (GEC)

MINUTES
April 25, 2005
Whetten Graduate Center – Giolas Conference Room
1:30PM

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:35 P.M.
2. It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the 3/21/2005 meeting.
3. It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the Doctoral Plans of Study and Dissertation Proposals.
4. When a student's proposal is rejected, do we need a form for all members of the committee to sign?

The Graduate Faculty Council Executive Committee (GEC) noted that each graduate program interpreted the "Dissertation Proposal for the Ph.D. Degree form" differently. This is a problem.

Some committee members felt that the section regarding use of human or animal subjects should be removed from the form. It was also pointed out that a conflict of interest might exist if the major advisor is the program chair. In that case, the head of the department or someone else should sign for the program.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously that the "Dissertation Proposal for the Ph.D. Degree form" be revised so that the Advisory Committee is required to sign twice:

1. To approve that the Dissertation Proposal is ready to be reviewed.
2. To approve the proposal after review. Then the proposal can be sent to the Graduate School.

The Graduate School will revise the form and send it out to GEC for approval. The revised document will be used immediately upon approval.

5. Ann Ferris presented a progress report on the development of doctoral programs in Public Health. The complete proposal will be available sometime in the fall 2005.

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously that the GEC reaffirms its interest in receiving a proposal that will bring together experts throughout the University (both UConn Health Center and Storrs) in regards to doctoral programs in Public Health (Ph.D. in Public Health and/or DrPH). Development of doctoral programs in Public Health will potentially increase opportunities for postdoctoral education and research, as well as creating important doctoral education programs.

This motion should be shared with the University leadership and the external deans reviewing the public health program in June 2005.

6. Joseph Smey initiated a discussion on a potential new master's program. The School of Allied Health (SAH) is considering developing a Master of Science degree program in Orthotics and Prosthetics beginning in the fall of 2007. This would be accomplished without new faculty positions by converting the existing SAH-affiliated Certificate Program (with a private company in Newington, CT) to a master's degree program. The program, will not be through the College of Continuing Studies, but will be an off campus tuition driven program.

This is a complex issue. The GEC offered these comments and advice.

1. This field should continue to grow in the future.
 2. To be approved as a masters program, at least one-half of the faculty teaching classes and/or running the program should be tenure-track faculty (following the same requirements for the Master's of Professional Studies (MPS) degrees).
 3. Like the MPS program, an advisory committee should be put in place for this program and annual reviews should be done during the first 5 years.
 4. The certificate program is primarily under the aegis of one company. What happens if the company is "bought out"?
 5. Beware of conflict of interests with the supporting company.
 6. The GEC would entertain a certificate program instead of either an MS or another type of master's degree if the school desires.
7. Gerald Maxwell and Emilio Pagoulatos reviewed UConn's consulting policy. GEC after discussion thought the revisions of the consulting policy should be fairly small in terms of text changes, but make it clear that graduate students need protection.

A motion was made, seconded and passed that the UConn Policy on Consulting should be amended as indicated below. Conflict of Interest will be addressed at another time.

7.USE OF STUDENTS IN OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 1-84(b) of the Code of Ethics for Public Officials, a state employee may not accept other employment, which will impair his independence of judgment as to his official duties, or employment. Furthermore, in accordance with Connecticut General Statute Section 1-86 and the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Section 1-81-29, a state employee with a potential conflict of interests must inform his or her supervisor who shall assign the matter to another who is not subordinate to the individual with the conflict.

Potential conflicts may occur when a professor or other staff member employs a student in any consulting activity. Therefore, a professor or other staff member who chooses to employ students in any consulting activity must disclose the intent to do so in writing and obtain permission, prior to employing the student. This disclosure should be made in writing to the department head/dean or the appropriate University official and should not be to someone who is a subordinate. The department head/dean must review the request and grant approval before the employment can proceed. This approval must be reviewed for every request and reviewed on an annual basis.

- Deleted: non-university supported
- Deleted: , whether or not that student is enrolled in a course taught by the professor.
- Deleted: non-University

The student and employer have on-going recourse to the Provost (Storrs and regional campuses) or the Executive Vice President (Health Center) who will consult with the dean of the Graduate School (for graduate students) or the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (for undergraduate students) in order to address any grievances that may arise during the term of the employment.

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- Deleted: chancellor

Failure to comply constitutes a violation of the State ethics code and University policy and is subject to disciplinary procedures of both.

8. GEC feels that it is not necessary to draft a philosophy on how graduate programs encourage interdisciplinary activities. The very structure of graduate education of this university by Fields of Study guarantees an interdisciplinary approach. Diane Lillo-Martin and Emilio Pagoulatos will attend the Graduate Faculty Council meeting on May 3, 2005 to express the GEC's thoughts on interdisciplinary activities.
9. Department of Curriculum and Instruction in the Neag School of Education proposed to eliminate the doctoral program in Educational Studies.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously that (provided there are no students in the pipeline) the Department of Curriculum and Instruction in the Neag School of Education may discontinue the doctoral program in Educational Studies.

10. The GEC considered a Psychology Department proposal requesting a name change:

A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously that the Area of Concentration of "Language" be renamed to "Language and Cognition".

11. GEC acknowledged the thoughtful and careful contributions that David Herzberger has brought to the GEC over the many years he has been a member.
12. When dissertators are awarded their travel funds, the department head as well as the major advisor and student will be notified.
13. Summaries of the Graduate School Applications, Admissions, Matriculations, and UConn research activities were distributed.
14. Adjournment 3:40 PM.

Present: G. Anderson, J.G. Clifford, D. Cournoyer, D. Herzberger, D. Lillo-Martin, E. Pagoulatos, L. Strausbaugh, G. Maxwell, J.L. Greger

Absent: J. Marsden, E. Smith, J. Henkel

Guest: J. Smey and A. Ferris

Respectfully submitted,

Danielle Z Farrands
Administrative Assistant