Executive Committee
of the
Graduate Faculty Council

M I N U T E S

October 5, 2005
Whetten Graduate Center -- Giolas Conference Room
3:00 P.M.

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:04 P.M. (with J. Henkel participating via conference call). Interim Vice Provost Gregory J. Anderson presided.

2. Per the discussion concerning the UConn IT initiative at the 9/21/05 meeting of the Graduate Faculty Council, a draft of a memorandum to be sent to COO Linda Flaherty-Goldsmith was prepared by J. Henkel. The draft statement was introduced for consideration, and it was **moved** and seconded to approve the statement as presented. There was agreement concerning two minor modifications. The motion to approve the statement as modified **passed** without dissent on a voice vote (a copy of the approved statement is attached to the file copy of these minutes).

3. G. Maxwell introduced for consideration a request from John D. Shanley, a faculty member at the Health Center, to permit his matriculation in the M.P.H. program. Letters of support accompanied the request. There was discussion. It was noted that the potential for any conflict of interest is minimal. It was **moved** (E. Pagoulatos) and seconded to approve the request.

    D. Cournoyer spoke about a practice at the School of Social Work which provides a means of recourse for an individual who believes that a conflict of interest exists when an exception to policy has been approved (i.e., an individual is selected to serve in the role of ombudsman at the time the exception is approved).

    (J. Henkel's participation ended at this point.)

    The motion to approve the request **passed** without dissent on a voice vote.

4. As a result of the discussion noted in item 3 above, D. Cournoyer **moved** the adoption of the following statement:

    > The approval of an exception to Graduate School policy is publicized to
    > all interested parties. Persons who perceive that an approved exception to
    > Graduate School policy has created a conflict of interest or has affected them
    > adversely should make their concerns known to the Dean of the Graduate
    > School.

    The motion was seconded (J. Marsden). In the course of discussion, it was noted that the above statement should appear in the *Graduate Catalog* (if the motion passes). The motion **passed** without dissent on a voice vote.

5. It was **moved,** seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve as distributed the minutes of the meeting of 9/7/05.

6. It was **moved,** seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve the list of Plans of Study and Dissertation Proposals.

7. G. Anderson reported on the recent Deans' retreat. The importance of developing a focused strategic plan was emphasized.

8. G. Anderson introduced Christine Adams and Ann Wilhelm, staff members in decision support and data analysis, to participate in a discussion about how best to utilize and to present information pertaining to the University's research and graduate education missions. Topics included:

    - Appropriate criteria and metrics for determining excellence
    - Outputs of research and graduate programs (e.g., publications, patents, placements of graduates, and the like)
    - Identifying appropriate peer institutions for comparisons
    - The need to encompass all of the campuses (i.e., Storrs, Health Center, and the regional campuses)
    - Elements of scale
    - The need "to tell the story" of the Graduate School through newsletters, brochures, and other means
    - The need to examine support staff and resources for departments and programs.

9. It was noted that the Graduate Faculty Council will meet with the Provost on 10/19/05 as determined at last month's meeting.

10. Adjournment was at 4:43 P.M.

Present: J.G. Clifford, D. Cournoyer, D. Lillo-Martin, J. Marsden, E. Pagoulatos, E. Smith, G. Anderson (Interim Vice Provost), G. Maxwell (Associate Dean), and T. Peters (Program Director)

Participating via conference call: J. Henkel (Associate Vice Provost)

Regrets: L. Strausbaugh

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas B. Peters
Program Director