

Graduate Faculty Council

MINUTES

September 16, 2009

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:02 P.M. Vice President for Research Suman Singha presided.
2. It was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve as distributed the minutes of the meeting of April 22, 2009.
3. S. Singha updated members of the Council concerning:
 - The impact of the recent retirement incentive
 - The University's budget situation for FY10 and FY11
 - The federal Stimulus bill has spurred more than 140 grant proposals at Storrs and approximately 200 at the Health Center with many already funded
 - The results of NRC assessments of doctoral programs still have not been released
 - The incoming undergraduate class is a bit smaller than the previous year--a planned reduction
 - At the undergraduate level, the University has a 93% retention rate as well as a 4.3 year average time to graduation (7th best in the U.S.)
 - Efforts are underway to make it easier to transfer money back and forth between Storrs and the Health Center

There was discussion concerning these and other matters.

4. S. Singha introduced Associate Dean of the Graduate School Lee A. Aggison, Jr. who addressed the Council concerning:
 - The awarding of certificates to students who complete Graduate Certificate Programs
 - The *Responsible Conduct of Research* (RCR) course is now required for NSF funded proposals (proposals submitted after mid-January will have to be certified by the Office of Sponsored Programs as RCR trained)
 - The need to review and to update the policies and procedures of the Graduate School
 - Development efforts in the areas of teaching and mentoring--particularly a plan to implement a series of workshops in differing disciplinary areas (e.g., job search techniques)
5. A. Grubb, President of the Graduate Student Senate (GSS), reported that the GSS would hold its first meeting of the new academic year that evening.
6. It was agreed that T. Peters will send an e-mail message to the full membership asking for volunteers to serve on the *ad hoc* task force that is to review the Graduate School's policies and procedures.
7. S. Singha announced that areas of the Graduate Center now are being used to display the work of M.F.A. students in Art.
8. Adjournment was at 4:10 P.M.

Present: W. Abikoff, A. Alexandrescu (alt), C. Auer, W. Bailey, T. Blank, J. Bobaljik, M. Bock, N. Bouchard, H. Brody, J. G. Clifford, R. Cusson, G. Dunne, P. Faghri, M-L. Fernandez, A. Grubb, O. Karan, T. Kehle, L. Lewis, M. McElya (alt), C. Parks, T. J. Peters, B. Purkayastha (alt), G. Robbins, E. Schultz, T. Seery, F. Shah (alt), C. A. VanLear, K. Venkitanarayanan, and B. Zhang; and S. Singha (*Vice President*), L. Aggison (*Associate Dean*), L. Klobutcher (*Associate Dean*), and T. B. Peters (*Program Director*)

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas B. Peters
Program Director