

Executive Committee  
of the  
Graduate Faculty Council

**MINUTES**

February 7, 2007  
Whetten Graduate Center – Giolas Conference Room  
3:00 P.M.

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:03 P.M. by Associate Vice Provost James G. Henkel.
2. It was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve as distributed the minutes of the December 13, 2006 meeting.
3. It was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve the list of Plans of Study and Dissertation Proposals.
4. J. Henkel updated members concerning the ongoing preparations for NRC assessment of doctoral programs. In particular, he noted that work on completing the program questionnaires has progressed well and that UConn to date is exceeding the national average in terms of submission rates for the faculty questionnaires. He urged members to continue to encourage their colleagues to submit the faculty questionnaires by the deadline. He noted that the student surveys are not out yet.
5. The proposed Graduate Certificate Program in Human Rights, discussed and tabled at the last meeting, was introduced for further consideration. It was **moved** (E. Shultz) and seconded (J. Marsden) to remove the matter from the table. The motion **passed** without dissent on a voice vote.

There was discussion concerning various aspects of the proposed program including program administration and the Storrs/Law School relationship. It was recommended that the approval of the program include a provision for the Executive Committee to review it in two years. It was **moved** (E. Pagoulatos) and seconded (J.G. Clifford) to amend the original motion to approve the proposed program by adding a required review of the program by the Executive Committee in late-Spring 2009. The motion to approve the program with the required review in two years **passed** without dissent on a voice vote.

6. A recommendation from the full-time Master of Business Administration degree program to change the name of Area of Concentration *Management Consulting* to *Venture Consulting* was considered. Following brief discussion, it was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve the change of name as recommended.
7. A recommendation received from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering to change the name of the *Information, Communications, and Decision Systems* Area of Concentration under Field of Study Electrical Engineering to *Information, Communications, Decision and Biosystems* was considered. Following brief discussion, it was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve the change of name with a minor modification, i.e., the addition of a comma after the word *Decision*. The approved name as modified is *Information, Communications, Decision, and Biosystems*.

[G. Anderson joined the meeting at this point.]

8. G. Anderson expressed appreciation for the service of members David Cournoyer, Jean Marsden, and Linda Strausbaugh. Each has completed a three year term as a member of the Executive Committee.
9. G. Anderson spoke about the drafting of the *Academic Plan* and thanked members for their input. Discussion ensued. Anderson said that he wants for the Executive Committee to lead an effort to develop a strategic plan for the Graduate School.

10. There was discussion about the approval process for Dissertation Proposals and the form that has been used by the Graduate School in recent years. It was agreed that a revised form (requiring only one set of advisory committee signatures and information concerning the use of human and/or animal subjects in the research) would be used in the future.
11. There was discussion about aspects of the observance of UConn's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It was proposed that there be a pop-up box on the Graduate School's web page that would display rotating highlights of the research accomplishments of faculty members and their graduate students. G. Anderson asked for volunteers to join representatives from the Research Advisory Council to screen research accomplishments for this purpose. J. Marsden, L. Strausbaugh, and J.G. Clifford volunteered. It also was suggested that vignettes from noted alumni be included.
12. There was discussion about having an *ex-officio* representative and alternate from the Center for Continuing Studies (CCS) to attend meetings of the Graduate Faculty Council (GFC). It was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve *ex-officio* representation on the GFC for the CCS.
13. It was agreed to call a meeting of the Graduate Faculty Council for February 21, 2007.
14. There was discussion about the *Compact between Postdoctoral Appointees and Mentors*, and it was agreed to adopt it as a best practice. It was agreed to disseminate this information via the Graduate School Web site and listserv e-mail.
15. G. Anderson called attention to the recently-published *2006 Report of Sponsored Project Activity*, and he explained the report's contents.
16. Adjournment was at 5:24 P.M.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas B. Peters  
Program Director