

Executive Committee
of the
Graduate Faculty Council

MINUTES

April 4, 2007
Whetten Graduate Center – Giolas Conference Room
3:00 P.M.

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:03 P.M. Vice Provost Gregory J. Anderson presided.
2. G. Anderson introduced newly-reappointed member David Cournoyer, Associate Dean and Associate Professor, School of Social Work.
3. It was noted that members of the Executive Committee will be meeting with Jean Main, Director of Financial Aid, on April 11, 2007 at 11:00 AM to discuss the recent reduction in the summer Work Study allocation for graduate students.
4. It was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve as distributed the minutes of the March 14, 2007 meeting.
5. It was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve the list of Plans of Study and Dissertation Proposals.
6. A recommendation from the Department of Chemical, Materials and Biomolecular Engineering was introduced for consideration. The recommendation seeks to change the name of Field of Study *Metallurgy and Materials Engineering* to *Materials Science and Engineering*. J. Henkel noted the fact that there already is a Field of Study of *Materials Science* which has existed for many years. The recommended change of name would overlap significantly with the existing Field of Study of *Materials Science*.

In light of the similarity in the name of the existing Field of Study and the proposed change of name, it was **moved to table** the matter until the appropriate faculty members in the Department of Chemical, Materials and Biomolecular Engineering can discuss the matter with the leadership of the Institute of Materials Science and reach a consensus concerning the recommended name change. The motion to table **passed** without dissent on a voice vote.

7. G. Maxwell informed members that a reconfiguration of the Areas of Concentration in the Biomedical Science Field of Study is a possibility. Maxwell will provide an update at the May meeting.
8. It was agreed to call a meeting of the Graduate Faculty Council for April 18, 2007.
9. G. Anderson updated members on recent discussions concerning the setting of graduate assistantship stipend rates for 2007-2008.
10. There was discussion about the Travel Award Program for faculty. G. Anderson called attention to the work of Larisa Hull in this regard, and he explained the attachment to the printed agenda for the meeting.
11. J. Henkel informed members that the *Grievance Procedure for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Fellows* approved recently by the Committee has been scrutinized by the Office of the Attorney General. Copies of two versions of the Procedure were provided to members – one showing the changes recommended by the Attorney General's Office and the other with all of the recommended changes incorporated. It was noted that Postdoctoral Fellows at the Health Center are represented by a bargaining unit and will have to be excluded. It also was noted that students in dual degree programs (e.g., M.B.A./J.D., Ph.D./M.D., etc.) will have to opt go with one school's procedure or the other.

12. J. Henkel informed members that all central preparations for the NRC assessments of doctoral programs have been completed. He noted that the doctoral student survey is expected to be distributed on April 9th. The fields involved for the student surveys are Economics, Chemical Engineering, English, Neuroscience, and Physics.
13. G. Anderson introduced Brinley Franklin, Vice Provost for Libraries, and Scott Kennedy, Area Head-University Libraries. Franklin and Kennedy spoke with members about the Digital Commons, amendments to copyright agreements, and a proposed resolution entitled *Proposed Resolution on Author Rights and the Institutional Repository*.

It was moved (W. Abikoff), seconded (J. G. Clifford), and passed without dissent on a voice vote to present the resolution at the next meeting of the Graduate Faculty Council.

14. Adjournment was at 4:55 P.M.

Present: W. Abikoff, L. Achenie, A. Albert, J. Barnes-Farrell, J. G. Clifford, D. Courmoyer, M. A. Doyle, G. Anderson (*Vice Provost*), J. Henkel (*Associate Vice Provost*), G. Maxwell (*Associate Dean*), and T. Peters (*Program Director*)

Regrets: E. Pagoulatos and E. Schultz

Guests: Brinley Franklin, *Vice Provost for Libraries*
Scott Kennedy, *Area Head-University Libraries*

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas B. Peters
Program Director