

Graduate Faculty Council

MINUTES

November 15, 2006
Whetten Graduate Center, Room 200
3:00 P.M.

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:04 P.M. Vice Provost Gregory J. Anderson presided.
2. It was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve as distributed the minutes of the meeting of October 18, 2006.
3. G. Anderson introduced Barry Feldman, Chief Operating Officer, who addressed the Council concerning his new role at UConn, the University's relationship to the surrounding communities, and the status of *UConn – 21st Century* (funding for which totals \$1.3 billion -- \$1 billion for Storrs and the regional campuses and \$.3 billion for the Health Center). Feldman spoke about planned changes to the campus including the construction of a new academic building to replace Arjona and Monteith, demolition of the former and now vacant School of Pharmacy building, renovation and/or expansion of several existing academic buildings, significant spending on deferred-maintenance and code-correction projects, and about a variety of projects at the regional campuses and the Health Center.
4. G. Anderson introduced Diane Lillo-Martin, who updated members concerning the work of the Teaching Evaluation Task Force. The group was established by the Provost and is drafting a set of recommendations to improve the evaluation of teaching at UConn. Lillo-Martin explained that the Task Force is considering a variety of recommendations involving diagnostic observations of teaching, student evaluations, and the development of different kinds of evaluation instruments for different kinds of courses. It was noted that the evaluation instruments will need to be reviewed periodically, that a full-time professional will be needed to administer the process, and that ongoing examination of student-learning-gains data is very important.
5. J. Henkel spoke about the ongoing preparations for the upcoming NRC assessments of doctoral programs. He noted the importance of the faculty questionnaire and urged all faculty members to complete it and to encourage their colleagues to do the same. He noted that faculty publications and scholarship is a major focus. Henkel further noted that the Program Questionnaire also is key to the overall assessment process. The third questionnaire (the Institutional Questionnaire) includes basic demographic data. The Graduate School will pre-populate those sections of the questionnaires for which it has data.
6. G. Anderson welcomed Provost Peter Nicholls, who spoke with members about a variety of topics and initiatives, including:
 - The need for 175 new faculty members
 - The Eminent Faculty Program in science and technology disciplines
 - Tuition and fees for the next two years given final approval
 - The Academic Plan is taking shape
 - Institutional centers of excellence have been identified – these span environmentally-related studies, the health and well-being of people, workforce and economic development, teacher preparation, human rights, and cultural activities
 - Setting appropriate institutional priorities for effective allocation of available resources
 - Developing international involvements
7. J. Henkel informed members of the success of the recent Hot Topics and Graduate Advisement Workshops presented by Graduate School staff for Graduate Faculty and graduate program staff members.
8. There were several updates and announcements.
9. Adjournment was at 4:30 PM.

Present: W. Abikoff, M. Accorsi, A. Albert, J. Barnes-Farrell, A. Basu, T. Blank, J. Bourbeau, J. G. Clifford, H. Brody, J. G. Clifford, D. Cournoyer, J. Crivello (alt), S. De Guise, D. Lillo-Martin, C. Maresh, S. McBrearty, P. Neafsey (alt), F. Nichols, R. Rockwell (alt), S. Roe, M. Rudnicki, E. Schultz, L. Strausbaugh, T. Torgerson, J. Troyer, A. Vias, K. Wells, G. Anderson (*Vice Provost*), J. Henkel (*Associate Vice Provost*), and T. Peters (*Program Director*)

Regrets: L. Achenie, M. Bernstein, J. Dovidio, A. Engler, M. L. Fernandez, J. Madaus, P. Streifer,

Speakers: Peter Nicholls, *Provost and Executive Vice President*
Barry, Feldman, *Chief Operating Officer and Vice President*

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas B. Peters
Program Director