

Executive Committee  
of the  
Graduate Faculty Council

**MINUTES**

March 5, 2008  
Whetten Graduate Center – Giolas Conference Room  
3:00 PM

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:04 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 January 16, 2008 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. Newly-appointed member Mark Aindow, from Materials Science and Engineering, was introduced.
5. J. Henkel distributed copies of the document *Midyear Progress Report – VPRGE Diversity Plan, 2008*. He spoke about each of the five goals addressed in the report, and he agreed, at a future meeting, to share with members a detailed spreadsheet he maintains which contains various categories of enrollment data going back to the year 2000.
6. J. Henkel reported that the number of applications for admission to graduate programs received and processed during the current academic year is very nearly 8,000. He noted that applications are being received at a record-setting pace this admissions cycle.
7. G. Anderson spoke about this year's plans and arrangements for the various commencement ceremonies. Several additional individual school and college ceremonies are to be held in May. The Graduate Ceremony will be very similar to those of recent years. He noted that all Storrs honorary degrees will be awarded at the Graduate Ceremony, which is scheduled for 2:00 PM on Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>.
8. The agenda for the March 19, 2008 meeting of the Graduate Faculty Council was discussed and finalized.

Among the several items to be included on the agenda for the GFC meeting, there was considerable discussion concerning a proposal to charge tuition to grants. As a result of that discussion, it was **moved** (A. Albert) and seconded (E. Schultz) to include the proposal on the agenda as a discussion item and to present the following motion for the Council's consideration:

It is the sense of the Graduate Faculty Council that the introduction of tuition for graduate assistants would adversely affect the programs of the Graduate School and is inconsistent with key goals of the draft Academic Plan. We agree with and support the position of the Research Advisory Council statement regarding these waivers.

We therefore urge that the policy of waiving tuition be continued.

The motion **passed** without dissent on a voice vote.

9. There were several updates and announcements.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 4:48 PM.

*Present:* W. Abikoff, M. Aindow, A. Albert, J. G. Clifford, S. De Guise, M. A. Doyle, E. Schultz, G. Anderson  
(*Vice Provost*), J. Henkel (*Associate Vice Provost*), L. Klobutcher (*Associate Dean*), and T. Peters  
(*Program Director*)

*Not attending:* J. Barnes-Farrell and J. Marsden

Respectfully submitted,

*Thomas B. Peters*

Program Director