

Executive Committee
of the
Graduate Faculty Council

MINUTES

September 2, 2009
Whetten Graduate Center – Giolas Conference Room
4:00 PM

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:03 P.M. Vice President 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 May 6, 2009. There was one abstention.
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. S. Singha updated members concerning several matters:
 - Associate Dean Lee Aggison, Jr. was introduced to members.
 - The impact that the recent Retirement Incentive Program has had in the Division of Research and Graduate Education.
 - The Economic Stimulus Bill has spurred 145 additional grant proposals.
 - The second floor of the Whetten Graduate Center has become a gallery to display the work of M.F.A. students.
 - Copies of a press release were distributed announcing that Connecticut now has a final state budget. In terms of UConn's state allocation, there is a cut of \$8 million for FY10 and another cut of \$8 million for FY11.

5. The group considered a proposal to implement a Graduate Certificate Program in **Positive Behavior Support** submitted by the Department of Educational Psychology. The proposal had been received at the May 6, 2009 meeting.

A general discussion ensued concerning the utility of having a large and growing number of Graduate Certificate Programs on the books. There was a question about who receives the tuition money from these certificate programs.

With respect to the **Positive Behavior Support** proposal, it was asked if this is a requirement imposed by the State of Connecticut. If so, could students satisfy such a requirement simply by taking the courses? Who mandates that students have this certificate?

It was noted that the agenda includes two additional proposals for Graduate Certificate Programs from the Neag School of Education to be received at this meeting – **Program Evaluation** and **Postsecondary Disability Services**.

It was agreed that there would be consultation with the Dean's Office in the Neag School of Education before any further action concerning these proposals is taken.

6. A recommendation, received from the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, to change the grading basis of MCB 5449 from Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) to A/B/C/D/F grading was considered. It was noted that the course currently is being offered and that the instructor needs to submit a syllabus before the recommendation can be considered further.

[It since has been determined that the listing of the course in the Graduate Catalog as S/U for the past many years apparently has been erroneous. A/B/C/D/F grades have been listed on student transcripts when the course has been offered in the past. MCB will continue past practice in this regard. The course listing in the Graduate Catalog has been corrected.]

7. A proposal to change the name of Field of Study **Professional Higher Education Administration** to **Higher Education and Student Affairs** was received. The proposal will be considered at the next meeting.
8. L. Aggison spoke about the following:
 - Awarding a paper certificate when students complete Graduate Certificate Programs
 - The **Responsible Conduct in Research** course is now required by NSF
 - The need to review the policies and procedures of the Graduate School
 - Developing a series of professional development workshops for graduate students and faculty members
 - Creating a dossier service for completing graduate students who are seeking jobs

9. W. Abikoff distributed copies of a resolution concerning returning veterans and students facing economic challenges that he proposes for consideration by the Graduate Faculty Council.
10. It was agreed to call a meeting of Graduate Faculty Council for September 16, 2009.
11. Adjournment was at 5:10 PM.

Present: W. Abikoff, A. Albert, J. G. Clifford, S. De Guise, S. Hewett, J. Marsden, S. Singha (*Vice President*), L. Aggison, Jr. (*Associate Dean*), and T. Peters (*Program Director*)

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas B. Peters

Program Director