

Executive Committee  
of the  
Graduate Faculty Council

**MINUTES**

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:04 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 October 7, 2009.
  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. A proposal to change the name of existing Area of Concentration ***Agronomy*** under Field of Study *Plant Science* to ***Turfgrass Science and Agronomy*** was introduced for consideration. During the course of discussion, it was noted that the documentation concerning the proposal was not clear as to the intended new name of the Area of Concentration. It was agreed that T. Peters will clarify the matter with the Department of Plant Science before the group acts on the proposal at the next meeting.
  5. There was discussion concerning the matter of Graduate Certificate Programs, which had been on the agenda as a discussion item for the 10/21/09 Graduate Faculty Council meeting. W. Abikoff spoke about the attachment to the agenda, which had been drafted by Abikoff and J. G. Clifford after the October Council meeting. Several questions concerning the general matter of Graduate Certificate Programs emerged. It was noted that these questions, which follow, should be incorporated in the charge to the *ad hoc* task force that the Council should now vote to create:
    - How many Graduate Certificate Programs are there currently?
    - How many are approved by the Board of Trustees? . . . by the Department of Higher Education?
    - Which are not currently approved?
    - Should proposals include sunrise and sunset clauses?
    - Should there be provisions for periodic review of these programs?
- It was agreed that continued discussion of this topic will be on the agenda for the 11/18/09 Council meeting.
6. ***New Business*** – There was discussion concerning the Report of the Graduate School Evaluation Committee.
  7. It was agreed to call a meeting of the Graduate Faculty Council for November 18, 2009. The agenda will include discussion with the Provost concerning the Report of the Graduate School Evaluation Committee; a presentation concerning housing for graduate students by Vice President John Saddlemire and Assistant Vice President Steven Kremer from Student Affairs; and the continued discussion of Graduate Certificate Programs noted in item #5 above.
  8. Adjournment was at 5:20 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,

*Thomas B. Peters*

Program Director