

Executive Committee
of the
Graduate Faculty Council

MINUTES

September 7, 2011
Whetten Graduate Center – Giolas Conference Room
3:00 PM

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:03 P.M. Interim Dean Charles A. Lowe presided.
2. David Benson, Molecular and Cell Biology (MCB) Department Head, was introduced and spoke about a proposal from the Department to consolidate the five Fields of Study currently offered (i.e., *Biochemistry*, *Cell Biology*, *Genetics and Genomics*, *Microbiology*, and *Structural Biology and Biophysics*) and offer a single Field of Study to be called *Molecular and Cell Biology*. The implementation of this consolidation would be achieved by renaming the *Structural Biology and Biophysics* Field of Study *Molecular and Cell Biology* and the other four Fields of Study would be eliminated.

The proposal also calls for the creation of Areas of Concentration to be associated with the newly-named Field of Study. These new Areas of Concentration include: *Biochemistry*, *Structural Biology and Biophysics*; *Cell and Developmental Biology*; *Genetics and Genomics*; and *Microbiology*.

Upon full approval and implementation, the proposal calls for the matriculation of all new students in the newly-named Field of Study. The proposal also seeks approval for the currently-existing Fields of Study to be rendered dormant but available to students currently enrolled who wish to earn their degrees in their chosen Fields of Study.

Following Benson's remarks and brief discussion, it was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve the proposal as presented. *[Dr. Benson had left the room at the time the vote was taken.]*

3. It was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve as distributed the minutes of the meeting of July 5, 2011.
4. It was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve the list of Plans of Study and Dissertation Proposals.
5. Anne Kenny, Clinical Professor at the Health Center, was introduced to speak about a proposal to implement a Graduate Certificate Program in *Clinical and Translational Research*.

Following Kenny's remarks and brief discussion, it was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve the proposal as presented. *[Dr. Kenny had left the room at the time the vote was taken.]*

6. L. Aggison noted that the revised *Catalog* sections prepared and presented by the Policies and Procedures Task Force had been distributed to members earlier in the summer via e-mail for final review in preparation for the group's consideration at this meeting. C. Lowe proposed that the Graduate School leadership look in detail at some of the more involved sections, confer a final time with the members of the Task Force, and then present the final section drafts to the Executive Committee for consideration.
7. It was agreed to call a meeting of the Graduate Faculty Council for September 21, 2011. It was noted that J. G. Clifford will continue as GFC Moderator and that W. Abikoff will continue to report for the Executive Committee at GFC meetings. It also was noted that President Herbst is scheduled to attend the November meeting of the Executive Committee.
8. C. Lowe shared with members some information concerning his background, his views about graduate education and research, and his thoughts about the roles of the Executive Committee and Graduate Faculty Council in the years to come. He told members that he encourages members to discuss their ideas with him concerning the work of the Executive Committee and the GFC.
9. J. Barnes-Farrell asked about the current status of the action(s) taken by the GFC to reimplement the policy governing appointment and reappointment to the Graduate Faculty. T. Peters agreed to report on this at the next meeting.

10. Adjournment was at 4:48 PM.

Present: W. Abikoff, M. Aindow, A. Albert, J. Barnes-Farrell, J. G. Clifford, S. De Guise, C. Lowe (*Interim Dean*), L. Aggison (*Associate Dean*), C. Lin (*Associate Dean*), B. Kream (*Associate Dean - Health Center*), and T. Peters (*Program Director*)

Speakers: David Benson, *Department Head, Molecular and Cell Biology*
Anne Kenny, *Clinical Professor, Health Center*

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas B. Peters

Program Director