

Executive Committee  
of the  
Graduate Faculty Council

**MINUTES**

January 14, 2009  
Whetten Graduate Center – Giolas Conference Room  
3:00 PM

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 P.M. Interim Vice President Suman Singha presided.
2. Provost Nicholls spoke with members concerning several topics, which included among others:
  - The recent proposal to modify the By-Laws of the Graduate School,
  - The ongoing effort to update the By-Laws of the University,
  - The search for the Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School position, and
  - The matter of fractional vis-à-vis full-time graduate assistantship appointments.

The Provost responded to questions and discussed key points with members.

3. S. Singha spoke about budget concerns. He noted that the administration has requested from all units scenarios to implement, if it were to become necessary, either a 3%, a 5 %, or a 10% reduction. He said the State budget will be approved later than usual which will cause a delay in the setting of tuition and fees for next year. Singha noted that care must be taken in proposing new programs and that the sunsetting of programs with low levels of productivity in recent years will have to be considered.
4. It was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve with a minor revision the minutes of the meeting of November 5, 2008 .
5. It was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve the list of Plans of Study and Dissertation Proposals.
6. A proposal to implement a Master of Science degree program in *Financial Risk Management* was received. The proposal will be considered at the next meeting.
7. A proposal to offer the existing D.M.D. and M.S. in *Clinical and Translational Research* degrees as a dual degree program was received. The proposal will be considered at the next meeting.
8. A proposal to offer the existing D.M.D. and M.P.H. degrees as a dual degree program was received. The proposal will be considered at the next meeting.
9. A proposal to implement a Graduate Certificate Program in *Survey Research* was received. The proposal will be considered at the next meeting.
10. A proposal to add *Cell Analysis and Modeling* as an Area of Concentration to the Ph.D. Field of Study *Biomedical Science* was received at the 1/14/09 meeting. The proposal was presented for consideration and action.

L. Klobutcher noted that this has been a very successful area of cross-disciplinary research at the Health Center for a number of years and that the proposal is consistent with the University's Academic Plan.

It was **moved** (W. Abikoff) with several seconds to approve the proposal. The motion **passed** without dissent on a voice vote. It was noted that this program involves Storrs - Health Center interactions.

11. A proposal to implement a Graduate Certificate Program in *Cognitive Science* was received at the 11/5/08 meeting. The proposal was presented for consideration and action.

J. Henkel noted that the proposal is very interdisciplinary and that all but one of the courses involved currently exist.

It was **moved** (J. Marsden), seconded (S. De Guise and E. Schultz), and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve the proposal.

12. Members discussed the method used by the Graduate School to determine a graduate student's terminal date (the date by which the student is to have completed all degree requirements). Currently, the computation of a graduate student's terminal date is based on the first course on the approved Plan of Study wherever it was taken. At present, however, time to degree is computed based on the student's requirement term (in PeopleSoft). The question was raised should the computation of the terminal date be based on the requirement term so that the two are synchronous?

Members agreed by consensus that a graduate student's terminal date henceforth will be based on the requirement term for the student's degree program.

13. Members discussed whether or not conferral of a doctoral degree should be delayed if the submission of the Dissertation Proposal for final approval by the Graduate School is not timely. It was recommended that a proposed policy statement be presented at a future meeting for consideration and action.
14. It was agreed to invite former member David Cournoyer to a future meeting to present a plaque to him recognizing his many years of service to the Graduate Faculty Council and to the Executive Committee.
15. A request from Karla Fox, Interim Department Head of Music, was received and considered. The purpose of the request was to seek approval to deactivate two existing degree programs -- the M.Mus. and Ph.D. programs in *Music Education*. The Music Education curriculum is migrating to the Department of Curriculum and Instruction in the Neag School of Education which plans to offer a dual bachelor's/master's degree program in Music Education.
16. It was agreed to call a meeting of the Graduate Faculty Council for 1/21/09. The agenda will include an election of two members to the Executive Committee and several updates.
17. Adjournment was at 5:37 PM.

*Present:* W. Abikoff, A. Albert, J. Barnes-Farrell, J. G. Clifford, S. De Guise, M. A. Doyle, J. Marsden, E. Schultz, S. Singha (*Interim Vice President*), J. Henkel (*Associate Vice Provost*), L. Klobutcher (*Associate Dean*), and T. Peters (*Program Director*)

*Regrets:* M. Aindow

*Speaker:* Provost Peter Nicholls

Respectfully submitted,

*Thomas B. Peters*

Program Director