

Executive Committee  
of the  
Graduate Faculty Council

**MINUTES**

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:03 P.M. Vice President Suman Singha presided.
2. The minutes of the May 7, 2008 meeting were considered. It was noted that member Mark Aindow indeed was present at the meeting. It was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve the minutes of the May 7<sup>th</sup> meeting with that one correction.
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. The proposal to implement a dual Pharm.D./M.B.A. degree program, received at the May 7, 2008, meeting was **endorsed** by the Executive Committee. It was noted that an appropriate letter is to be sent to each of the program leaders and that the dual degree program be added to the *Graduate Catalog*.
5. A proposal to implement a dual Au.D./Ph.D. degree program in the Field of Study of Communication Sciences was introduced for consideration. J. Henkel provided background information. Members recommended an editorial change to the final sentence of the third paragraph of the proposal (which should read “Normally, the Ph.D. will not be awarded before year five.”).  
  
It was **moved** (E. Schultz) to approve the proposal as presented with the modification noted above. The motion was seconded and, it **passed** without dissent on a voice vote.
6. A proposed policy concerning the sunset of doctoral degree programs was discussed. It was noted that decisions to close doctoral programs would not be unilateral and that small, interdisciplinary programs--if viable--would not be closed under the proposed policy.
7. There was a discussion about budgetary matters and modifications that are being considered..
8. There was discussion about the required time period (presently three months) between the Graduate School’s approval of the Dissertation Proposal and the oral defense of the dissertation. It was noted that there have been several recent instances of oral defenses following much more closely the final approval of the Dissertation Proposal. Suggested remedies were discussed, including linking the availability of the \$1,000 doctoral-student travel money to the final approval of the Dissertation Proposal **and** the passing of the General Examination (only the latter is required at the present time). It also was recommended that e-mail reminders concerning the policy be sent to both students and faculty. The matter will be placed on a future agenda for further consideration or action, as appropriate.
9. There was brief discussion concerning the graduate Commencement ceremony.
10. J. Henkel spoke about the Potsdam University (Germany)/UConn agreement and similar arrangements.
11. J. Henkel spoke about co-tutelle agreements with international universities.

12. There was discussion concerning the appropriateness of accepting 3000-level as well as 4000-level undergraduate courses toward graduate degree programs (currently only 4000-level courses are accepted). It was concluded that any graduate program wishing to accept one or more 3000-level courses toward graduate degrees should create a list of acceptable courses and submit it to the Graduate School.
13. There was discussion of the proposal to modify the By-Laws of the Graduate School that has been forwarded to the President and Provost. Further consideration of how to proceed with the proposal was deferred to give Vice President Singha an opportunity to review it.
14. It was determined that a meeting of the Graduate Faculty Council will not be called for September. October 15<sup>th</sup> will be the target date for the first meeting of the Graduate Faculty Council for the 2008-2009 academic year.
15. There were several updates and announcements.
16. Adjournment was at 5:08 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,

*Thomas B. Peters*

Program Director