

# Graduate Faculty Council

## *MINUTES*

September 21, 2005  
Whetten Graduate , Room 200  
3:00 P.M.

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:05 P.M. Interim Vice Provost Gregory J. Anderson presided.
2. G. Anderson welcomed members to the first meeting of the academic year and asked those present to introduce themselves. He noted that the Provost is scheduled to meet with the group at the October meeting. He called attention to the By-Laws of the Graduate School, and he spoke about recently-compiled benchmarking data which compare UConn very favorably with several peer institutions in terms of measures of graduate-program productivity and quality.
3. G. Anderson presented his strategic plan for academic year 2005-06. He identified goals for several of the units within Research and Graduate Education (including the Graduate School, the Research Foundation, the Office for Sponsored Programs, and the Office for Research Compliance). He noted also that an institution-wide review of centers is planned for the coming year.
4. It was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve as distributed the minutes of the meeting of February 17, 2005.
5. J. Henkel addressed the group concerning the *IT Strategic Planning Initiative* (a copy of the report is attached to the file copy of these minutes). The presentation generated considerable discussion. Michael Kerntke, Associate Vice President and Chief Information Officer, was present to field questions and to participate in the discussion. It was noted that the overall plan covers the next decade. Discussion topics included:
  - Hardware/software upgrades and consistency
  - Faculty and student involvement in decision-making
  - Time frame for implementation
  - Resource allocation process and priorities, including Research and Graduate Education needs
  - Securing needed budgetary commitment(s)
  - Need for the process to be open
  - Creation of a centralized and accessible source for school and college strategic plans
  - Need to identify the strategic themes that are driving the process
  - Integration and communication must be key elements of the process
  - Need to strike a balance between standardization and diversity
  - Need to specify which services are central and which are additive
  - The relationship between IT and research needs
  - Computationally-intense processing
  - Need to have a strategic vision of the IT planning process

It was concluded that the GFC should recommend that research faculty and graduate student representation be added to the IT Steering Committee. It was agreed that the GFC Executive Committee will draft a statement in this regard.

6. J. Henkel reported on the status of the University-wide course renumbering initiative. He noted that implementation of the new, four-digit course numbering system has been set for the Fall 2007 semester and he already has prepared spread sheets indicating proposed four-digit numbers for each department and program's graduate courses. Department and programs will have until May 2006 to determine new course numbers. Lower division undergraduate courses will be numbered 1000 to 2999, upper division undergraduate courses will be numbered 3000 to 4999, and graduate courses will be numbered 5000 to 6999. It was noted that certain blocks of course numbers will be reserved for certain kinds of courses. Each department and program will have a contact person with whom the Graduate School will communicate in terms of renumbering graduate-level courses. It was agreed that the spread sheets will be posted soon to the Web (at <<http://www.grad.uconn.edu/>>) so that individuals can download whichever pieces apply to them.

There were questions about cross-listed courses and about upperdivision undergraduate courses which can be applied toward a graduate degree. Concerning the latter, it was noted that it will be necessary for the GFC to coordinate with the Senate so that such courses are appropriately numbered and are easily identifiable in the new system.

7. J. Henkel updated the group on the status of ongoing preparations for the NRC survey to take place in AY 2006-07. Handouts were distributed and discussed.
8. Adjournment was at 5:00 PM.

Present: W. Abikoff, L. Achenie, J. Barnes-Farrell, M. Bernstein, T. Blank, R. Bogner (alt.), J. Bourbeau (GSS), H. Brody, A. Cillessen, J.G. Clifford, M. Cosgel, D. Cournoyer (alt.), E. Cromley, G. Dunne, J. Enderle, A. Engler, W. Glenn (alt.), M. Fernandez, J. Marsden, J. Mathieu, R. McAvoy, S. McBrearty, T. Miller, K. Murphy, E. Pagoulatos, S. Roe, E. Schultz, J. Segal, D. Stern, L. Strausbaugh, C. VanLear, R. Walikonis, G. Warner, G. Anderson (Interim Vice Provost), J. Henkel (Associate Vice Provost), T. Peters (Program Director), and C. Adams and A. Wilhelm (VPRGE decision support staff)

Regrets: C. Maresh and P. Streifer

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas B. Peters  
Program Director