

Graduate Faculty Council

MINUTES

October 18, 2006
Whetten Graduate Center, Room 200
3:00 P.M.

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:05 P.M. Vice Provost Gregory J. Anderson presided.
2. It was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve as distributed the minutes of the meeting of September 20, 2006.
3. Donna Munroe, Associate Vice President for Human Resources and Payroll, addressed the Council concerning various benefit choices for new University employees, particularly those who are funded by grants. A summary of the options was distributed and explained by Munroe and Lori Vivian, Director of Employee Benefits. There was discussion.
4. Jennifer Lease Butts, Associate Director of the Honors Program and Director of the Office for Undergraduate Research (OUR), spoke about the opportunities for undergraduate students to conduct research under the direction of faculty and graduate student. She described the OUR grants program, which is designed to promote and to support undergraduate research activities. Lease Butts expressed interest in developing a mentoring program that would link undergraduate students who want to do research with graduate students who are active researchers.
5. L. Cameron Faustman, Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and a member of the UConn chapter of *Phi Kappa Phi* (the all-discipline honor society), spoke to the Council about efforts currently underway to reinvigorate the local chapter. He noted that a group of local *PKP* members (who also are UConn faculty and staff members) is active in this regard. He noted that this group is requesting the assistance of faculty throughout the University to bring to the group's attention (for possible nomination to *Phi Kappa Phi*) those undergraduate and graduate students who are within the top 10% in terms academic achievement. The Council recommended to Faustman that he work closely with graduate program directors and coordinators in this regard.
6. Ruth Washington and Lee Aggison, both Associate Professors of Molecular and Cell Biology, addressed the group concerning NIH and NSF supplemental grant programs designed to promote diversity in research. They explained aspects of the application process and described current activities at UConn.
7. James Bourbeau, GFC member and President of the Graduate Student Senate (GSS), spoke about current GSS activities and priorities for the current semester.
8. Larisa Hull, Administrative Services Specialist in the Office for Sponsored Programs, spoke about Research Foundation money that is allocated for faculty travel. She noted that about 6% of the total allocation supports emeritus and in-residence faculty travel. The current maximum travel award is \$1,850 (\$750 from the Foundation and \$1,150 from the AAUP). The recipient must be presenting at the meeting to be attended to be eligible for a travel award.
9. J. Henkel spoke about the ongoing preparations for the upcoming NRC assessments of doctoral programs. He noted the importance of the faculty questionnaire and urged all faculty members to complete it and to encourage their colleagues to do the same. E. Schultz requested that GFC members be notified when the survey e-mails are sent to faculty members. Henkel noted that the Graduate School will pre-populate those sections for which it has data.
10. J. Henkel informed members of a new policy adopted by the GFC Executive Committee concerning the approval process for new academic programs. There now is a 30-day period between initial consideration of a new program and the Committee's vote on the proposal.

Henkel informed members that three proposals for new academic programs have been discussed by the Executive Committee and are pending approval. These include proposals for: a new Area of Concentration in Public Health to be called Environmental and Health Sciences, post-master's Graduate Certificate tracks in Nursing, and a Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) program.
11. There were several updates and announcements.
12. Adjournment was at 4:30 PM.

Present: W. Abikoff, L. Achenie, M. Aindow (alt), A. Albert, M. Bernstein, T. Blank, J. Bourbeau, J. G. Clifford, D. Cournoyer, J. Dovidio, M-L. Fernandez, W. Glenn, D. Lillo-Martin, J. Madaus, J. Marsden, S. McBrearty, T. Miceli (alt), F. Nichols, M. Rudnicki, E. Schultz, A. Shvartsman, L. Strausbaugh, P. Streifer, J. Troyer, A. Vias, Y. Wang, S. Winter, K. Wells, G. Anderson (*Vice Provost*), J. Henkel (*Associate Vice Provost*), and T. Peters (*Program Director*)

Regrets: J. Barnes-Farrell, H. Brody, S. De Guise, A. Frogley, C. Maresh, C. F. Sirmans

Guests: J. Gould, J. Niejako, C. Welt, A. White

Speakers: Lee Aggison, *Associate Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology*
L. Cameron Faustman, *Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources*
Larisa Hull, *Administrative Services Specialist in the Office of Sponsored Programs*
Jennifer Lease Butts, *Associate Director of the Honors Program*
Donna Munroe, *Associate Vice President for Human Resources and Payroll*
Lori, Vivian, *Director of Employee Benefits*
Ruth Washington, *Associate Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology*

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas B. Peters
Program Director