

Graduate Faculty Council

MINUTES

February 18, 2009

Hugh Clark Meeting Room -- Whetten Graduate Center, Room 200
3:00 P.M.

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:07 P.M. Interim Vice President for Research Suman Singha presided.
2. It was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve as distributed the minutes of the meeting of January 21, 2009.
4. N. McGary reported that the Graduate Student Senate held its first meeting of the new semester the previous evening, at which time the group heard from a student member of the Board of Trustees.
5. S. Singha updated the group on a broad range of budget-related topics, including:
 - Board of Trustees (BOT) approval of the budget and the setting of tuition rates have been delayed at the request of the Governor (the Governor requested that there be no tuition increase and no layoffs)
 - The current hiring freeze
 - BOT action to approve sabbaticals has been deferred
 - No allocation changes are planned for faculty or student travel, for predoctoral funding, or for the large or small grant programs
 - A proposal to reassign functions of the Graduate School to other units (to be considered -- no final decisions have been made).

There was discussion concerning sabbaticals as well as possible changes in the administrative configuration of the Graduate School.

With respect to the latter point, W. Abikoff, noting that the Graduate School plays an important role, **moved** that the Council put on record its belief that a high value should be placed on retaining the present structure of the Graduate School. The motion was seconded, and it **passed** without dissent on a voice vote. The point was made that the Health Center is part of the Graduate School and that the Health Center should be included in any analysis of the Graduate School that is undertaken.

There also was discussion concerning the work of the committee that was formed recently to review graduate programs. It was noted that a representative from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources has been added (J. Clausen) and that the group includes a member from the GFC Executive Committee (M. Aindow).

6. J. Henkel updated members concerning the recently-completed NRC assessments of doctoral programs. He noted that the anticipated release date for the results is now Summer 2009.
7. Adjournment was at 4:06 P.M.

Present: W. Abikoff, A. Albert (alt), M. Anania (alt), R. Aseltine (alt), C. Auer, W. Bailey, J. Barnes-Farrell, M. Bernstein, J. Bobaljik, N. Bouchard, C. Clark, J. Clausen, J. G. Clifford, T. Cooke, D. Cooper, R. Cusson, A. Donahue, M. A. Doyle (alt), P. Faghri, M.-L. Fernandez, J. Glaz, A. Grubb, S. Hewett, O. Karan, T. Kehle, J. Kelly, J. Linnekin, M. Lynes, J. Marsden, N. McGary, C. Parks, T.J. Peters, Y. Rong (alt), E. Schultz, T. Seery, F. Shah (alt), N. Sheehan (alt), L. Snyder (alt), C. A. VanLear, and B. Zhang; and S. Singha (*Vice President*), J. Henkel (*Associate Vice Provost*), and T. B. Peters (*Program Director*)

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas B. Peters
Program Director