

Executive Committee
of the
Graduate Faculty Council

MINUTES

May 1, 2013
Whetten Graduate Center – Giolas Conference Room
3:00 PM

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:02 PM. Vice Provost and Dean Kent E. Holsinger presided.
2. It was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve as distributed the minutes of the meeting of April 3, 2013.
3. It was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to accept the summary of approved doctoral Plans of Study and the list of Dissertation Proposals.
4. The group considered a request to approve the *Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U)* grading option for *ENGL 5150 – Advanced Research Methods*. Following brief discussion, it was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve the request.
5. The group considered a request for approval of the *Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U)* grading option for *ARTH 5319 – Art History Methods and Theories*. Following brief discussion, it was **moved**, seconded, and **passed** without dissent on a voice vote to approve the request.
6. K. Holsinger led a discussion concerning pre-draft preparations to create a new Academic Plan for the Graduate School, which will become a section of a new comprehensive Academic Plan for the University. Discussion topics included:
 - *Next Generation Connecticut* – How can the Graduate School participate and contribute – including effective distribution of support funding for STEM disciplines?
 - Greater support for graduate students in STEM disciplines and beyond STEM disciplines.
 - New efforts to enhance interaction and synergy between the Graduate School and the UConn’s Research enterprise.
 - The importance of including alumni in enhanced networking and professional and career development opportunities for graduate students.
 - The importance of placing a high priority on recruitment and on effective coordination of recruitment activities.
 - The importance of fostering a sense of community among graduate students across the broad range of academic disciplines.
 - The importance of enhancing the role of the Graduate Student Senate (GSS) and the interaction of the Graduate School with the GSS.
 - The importance of promoting effective communication about what the Graduate School and its people do.
 - The importance of continuous program evaluation.
 - The importance of maintaining useful, accurate, up-to-date data concerning students, faculty, and academic programs.
 - The importance of offering support to programs that appear to need it.
 - The importance of seeking and securing external funding – e.g., philanthropy and grants.
 - The importance of re-establishing the Graduate School/Graduate Center hub on the Storrs campus.
 - The importance of enhancing distance communication with the regional campuses.
 - The importance of enhancing the quality of life of Graduate School students on all campuses.
 - The need to provide shuttle bus service (e.g., between Storrs and the Health Center, between Storrs and Bradley International Airport, and perhaps other routes) – this would be particularly important during the busiest part of the recruitment season.
 - Implement a cross-campus research day annually.
7. K. Holsinger noted that this is T. Peters’ final meeting.

8. Members extended their congratulations to K. Holsinger, who was appointed recently as permanent Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of the Graduate School.
9. Adjournment was at 4:35 PM.

Present: M. Aindow, J. G. Clifford, S. DeGuise, K. Dennis, K. Dodge (for L. Puddington), M. Healey, J. LoTurco, S. Nunnally, K. Holsinger (*Vice Provost and Dean*), S. Chafouleas (*Associate Dean*), and T. Peters (*Program Director*)

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas B. Peters

Program Director