

MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING
March 29, 2005

Meeting convened at 3:06 p.m. – Dean Atlas presiding.

Members present: Namok Choi, David Clouthier, Evelyne Gozal, Susan Griffin, Vicki Hines-Martin, Larry Hunt, Carolyn Klinge, Ann Larson, George Pack, Rammohan Ragade, Ron Sahoo, and S. Srinivasan, Joseph Steffen, Nancy Theriot, and James Wittliff.

Ex officio: Ronald M. Atlas, Michael Cuyjet, and Richard Stremel.

Members Absent: Carlton Hornung, Ruth Huber, Waldemar Karwowski, Kathleen Klueber, Elangovan Krishnan, Dismas Masolo, and Seow-Chin Ong.

Guests: None.

1. Approval of the Minutes from the February 22, 2005 meeting.
MOTION: To approve the minutes of the February meeting as submitted. Moved by Susan Griffin; seconded by Joe Steffen.
PASSED.
 2. Approval of the Candidates for Degree at the May Commencement.
The current list of candidates for degree was circulated to members of Graduate Council.
MOTION: Graduate Council approves, on behalf of the Graduate Faculty, the list of candidates for graduate degrees at the May Commencement, and any other candidates subsequently added, provided they complete all requirements for degree prior to May 11th. Motion made by Susan Griffin and seconded by Rammohan Ragade.
PASSED.
 3. Report of the Membership Committee.
The following individuals were reviewed by the Membership Committee and are recommended as **Senior Member of the Graduate Faculty**:
 - Karen L. Kopelson, Ph.D., *Department of English*, College of Arts and Sciences.
 - Kenneth S. Ramos, Ph.D., *Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology*, School of Medicine.
 - Esma S. Yolcu, Ph.D., *Department of Microbiology & Immunology*, School of Medicine.MOTION: From the Committee to approve the recommendations for **Senior Member of the Graduate Faculty**.
PASSED.
- The following individual was reviewed by the Membership Committee and is recommended as **Member of the Graduate Faculty**:
- Daniel J. Conklin, Ph.D., *Department of Medicine, Division of Cardiology*, School of Medicine.

MOTION: From the Committee to approve the recommendation for **Member of the Graduate Faculty**.

PASSED.

4. Discussion of Graduate Student Awards.

Dean Atlas explained that the timing of requesting nominations, reviewing the nominations and the selection award recipients for the May and December Commencement ceremonies is driven by the deadline needed for the printing of the Commencement Program. Students completing their degrees after this printing deadline are then often not eligible for honors and awards at Commencement. *In absentia*, Ruth Huber has requested that late filing students be eligible for honors and awards at the next Commencement. Effectively, they would graduate in one term and be eligible for awards in the next term. Council did not embrace this solution and after continued discussion, voted on the following motion.

MOTION: Graduate Council recommends that distribution of Honors and Awards at Commencement remain as the current practice. Motion made by Susan Griffin and seconded by Evelyne Gozal.

PASSED, with one abstention.

5. Discussion of Hooding Ceremony.

Dean Atlas reported that questions have been raised concerning the amount of time it takes to hood all the doctoral students during Commencement and that it may be necessary to streamline the process for the sake of brevity. Council reacted negatively to this idea. The ceremony represents the highest scholarly acclaim and a university should stand behind this achievement. The hooding is important to parents and loved ones who have endured the graduate experience as well as the student. The opinion was expressed that the awarding of honorary degrees should be eliminated before the hooding ceremony is curtailed.

MOTION: Graduate Council requests that Dean Atlas convey to the President the Graduate Council views and strong support for maintenance of the hooding ceremony as an important part of doctoral achievement. Motion made by Susan Griffin and seconded by Namok Choi.

PASSED.

6. Discussion of Graduate School Policies and Guidelines.

Council member S. Srinivasn raised an issue concerning the use of Incomplete grades and the policies that govern the use of I grades. He provided a summary of the number of I grades assigned by unit and department and by year. The data show a clear unevenness in the use of I grades across the units. Council did not believe a pattern of use was overtly evident, but I grade use is greater in some departments than others. It was suggested that all Graduate Faculty be sent an e-mail outlining the policy for use of I and X grades.

7. Other Business.

Dean Atlas reported that the consultants from Council of Graduate Schools will be on campus for meetings on May 10 and 11. Graduate Council is scheduled to meet with them on the Tuesday afternoon.

Dean Atlas reported on the process utilized to rescind a degree erroneously awarded a master's student. The student was very cooperative and agreed with the decision to

rescind the degree by the graduate program and the BOT, It is anticipated that the student will legitimately complete the degree this May. It was also revealed that in a PeopleSoft conversion, an Ed.S. degree was converted to a Ed.D. This has also been corrected.

SACS reaffirmation has prompted the solicitation of graduate student focus groups to participate in the development of the Q.E.P. student learning “big idea”.

MOTION: Graduate Council supports the inclusion of graduate students in the focus groups being organized to solicit ideas for improved student learning. Motion made by Joe Steffen and seconded by Susan Griffin.

PASSED.

Council members from the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Professors Klinge and Wittliff, reported that they have received complaints concerning the electronic admissions process that no longer mails paper to programs. Dean Atlas said he will take this issue to the Director of Graduate Admissions, Libby Leggett, but noted that the new admission system has received nothing but positive responses.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m