

MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING
February 28, 2006

Meeting convened at 3:04 p.m. – Dean Atlas presiding.

Members present: Annette Allen, Timothy Brauch, Namok Choi, Susan Griffin, Mahesh Gupta, Vicki Hines-Martin, Carlton Hornung, Ruth Huber, Larry Hunt, Carolyn Klinge, Kathleen Klueber, Ann Larson, Seow-Chin Ong, George Pack, Rammohan Ragade, Ron Sahoo, Joseph Steffen, and Nancy Theriot.

Ex officio: Richard Stremel.

Members Absent: Evelyne Gozal, Waldemar Karwowski, David Scott, and James Wittliff.

Guests: Libby Leggett, Jonathan Johnson, Bob Buchanan (A&S), Ray Haynes (CEHD).

1. Approval of the Minutes from the January 24, 2006 meeting.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the January meeting. Moved by Carlton Hornung; seconded by Joe Steffen.

PASSED.

2. Report of the Membership Committee.

The following individuals were reviewed by the Membership Committee and are recommended as **Senior Member of the Graduate Faculty**:

- Damon P.S. Andrew, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Health & Sport Sciences, *Department of Health & Sport Sciences*, College of Education and Human Development.
- Naira H. Campbell-Kyureghyan, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Industrial Engineering, *Department of Industrial Engineering*, J.B. Speed School of Engineering.
- Cara H. Cashion, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Psychological & Brain Sciences, *Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences*, College of Arts and Sciences.

PASSED.

The following individuals were reviewed by the Membership Committee and are recommended as **Member of the Graduate Faculty**:

- Simon M. Pack, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Health & Sport Sciences, *Department of Health & Sport Sciences*, College of Education and Human Development.
- Elizabeth Bonham, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Nursing, School of Nursing.

PASSED.

3. Discussion of Graduate Student Orientation.
Jonathan Johnson, Graduate Assistant in the Graduate School, provided an overview of last Fall's Graduate Student Orientation, the results of a survey completed evaluating the Orientation, and suggestions for changes in future Orientations. The results of the survey and responses from graduate student focus groups have led to the development of an enhanced orientation effort. This new approach may include a picnic at PJCS and orientation in the Brown & Williamson Club. The orientation needs to be developed with unit and program orientations participating and contributing to a university-wide approach. The University needs to do more in orienting students and making them welcome to campus. As plans become more concrete, Council will be asked for further guidance.
4. Discussion of SREB Doctoral Scholars.
Dr. Ray Haynes, CEHD, presented a review of the goals and objectives of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Doctoral Scholars Program. This program started in 1993 and has 250 graduates. The program supports Doctoral Scholars and Dissertation Year Fellows and only requires that participants be ethnic minorities and commit to pursuing a career in academe. One highly successful aspect of the SREB programs is the annual Institute on Teaching and Mentoring. This provides a sense of community networking opportunities for participants, as well as development of mentoring and teaching skills. The Graduate School participates in the SREB programs and encourages students to apply. The Graduate School has increased the number of students participating in the Institute and programs by increasing its financial commitment to the program. Dr. Haynes gave much credit to the SREB programs for helping him complete his degree and encouraged other units to participate in the SREB Programs.
5. Discussion of Graduate School Policies.
Tabled.
6. Discussion of Future Vision for the Graduate School.
The Provost has circulated a draft plan for a vision for the Graduate School. Council (and other groups on campus) was sent copies electronically. Dean Atlas started the discussion by identifying action points dictated by the changes proposed in the document. Among these were a new description of graduate faculty – a term Professor Griffin strongly urged be avoided. The document suggests that the mere teaching of graduate courses fall under the purview of the Provosts Office and that the teaching justification now required by SACS, be expanded to justify faculty teaching of graduate courses. The designation Graduate Faculty would be reserved for faculty engaged in scholarly discovery and creative work who also mentor graduate students. Council argued, without resolution, how this might be judged and how it was different from the current system. Members of Council did not agree that Interdisciplinary Studies are cutting-edge and on the rise across the nation. Council could not decide how to proceed with the discussion of the document, since many in the room did not

accept many of the premises it contained. Council had no unifying vision of graduate education and thus could not agree on any issue. It was decided that a special meeting of Council be called to address this document and that Council wanted to respond to the Provost with one voice. The special meeting was scheduled for March 21.

7. Other Business.

Dr. Pam Feldhoff, VP Research Office, has requested Council members to participate in the selection of SROP students for this coming summer. Drs. Klinge, Klueber, Hornung, and Hines-Martin volunteered to serve on the review committee.

Meeting adjourned 4:45 p.m.