

## MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING

January 26, 2010

105 Houchens

**Convene** – Meeting Convened at 3:05 PM – Dr. Beth Boehm, Interim Dean presiding.

**Ex-Officio present:** Dr. Paul DeMarco, Associate Dean SIGS

**Members Present:** Haribabu Bodduluri, Sherri Brown, Amber Carrier, Jean Christensen, Carrie Daniels, Eileen Estes, James Fiet, Ruth Huber, Mehmed Kantardzic, Luke Milligan, Susan Ryan, David Scott, Joe Steffen, and Pam Yankeelov.

**Members Absent:** Susan Olson Allen, Ray Austin, William Dean (for Barbara Clark), Jafar Hadizadeh, Mary Hums, Debra Journet, John Naber, Pooja Palimar, Samuel Stringfield, Deborah Thomas, and Gennaro Vito.

**Guests:** none

### 1. **Welcome**

Dr. Beth Boehm, Interim Dean SIGS opened the meeting at 3:05 PM of the Graduate Council and welcomed everyone.

### 2. **ACTION: Consideration of minutes of October 27, 2009**

Dr. Boehm asked for approval of the October 27, 2009 meeting minutes, tabled at the last meeting. MOTION to approve Joe Steffen; Second by Ruth Huber.

### 3. **ACTION: Consideration of minutes of December 15, 2009**

Dr. Boehm asked for approval of the December 15, 2009 minutes. The only correction was to fill in Dr. Steffen's name on "MOTION to approve \_\_\_\_\_" (to SIGS Degree Candidates for December 2009). MOTION to approve as revised by Joe Steffen. APPROVED.

### 4. **ACTION: MOTIONS from Honorary Degree Committee**

Dr. Boehm turned the meeting over to Dr. Pam Yankeelov. She recapped the summary of nominations for honorary degrees (emailed and copies also handed out) reviewed on January 18, The summary of nominations for the following: A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and Robert J. Doherty. There was an abbreviated vitae, accomplishments, and close to 30 faculty members that endorsed Dr. Kalam's honorary degree for Doctor of Letters, and has been invited to visit Louisville sponsored by the Office of the Mayor on April 12. Both nominees were faculty nominated. Committee unanimously supported the recommendation him for honorary degree for Doctor of Letters. The Graduate Council will submit the recommendation to the President who can recommend to the Board of Trustees. Council wanted to get the recommendation into the President before his visit in April so it might be presented to him at that time.

Dr. Fiet suggested removing a reference to a list of “establishing reviving programs including Salt Lake Arts Center” projects of Doherty’s, specifically mentioned on his CV as an “utter failure.” Dr. Yankeelov said the committee would remove this from the recommendation. Dr. Boehm called the motion. APPROVED.

Professor Doherty’s nomination was discussed. Doherty has received honorary degrees from 33 institutions and has been recommended an honorary degree of Fine Arts. APPROVED.

**5. Discussion of requirement of TOEFL test for students in countries that do not administer the test.**

Dr. Boehm referred the council to Dr. Vogel’s email regarding this subject and is seeking guidance on. Dr. Vogel is asking how to make sure that a graduate student from a country where they don’t give GRE and TOEFLs are actually qualified to come here for graduate education (i.e., Laos). Dr. Vogel was emphasizing that someone who wanted to take the exam, had to have a certain amount of money to travel, hours-long trip to take the exams; Chinese students used to say they couldn’t take it in China (they can) so we need to be careful. Dr. Boehm wants guidance about this policy (Dr. DeMarco provided extra copies) that ‘international students for whom English is not their primary language must show English language proficiency by demonstration of specified level of proficiency on the TOEFL exam, or by successfully completing the exit examination of the advanced level of the IEL at the University of Louisville, or by demonstration of a degree award from an acceptable English-language institution.’ Dr. Fiet suggested that we ask for a writing sample, then follow up with phone call. Someone responded no (Dr. Christensen? I could not hear). A workshop that someone was able to assess them over several weeks; writing involved and presentations, extensive experience. Dr. Steffen suggested that the dean of SIGS could offer a waiver if there was substantial evidence provided (diplomat or through embassy) that the English speaking capabilities are adequate. It was thought that these students would be capable of teaching or working with undergraduates here and have the skills.

- Dean of SIGS to offer waiver if there is substantial evidence is offered
- Might want to add a proviso – to require an ESL course (David Scott)
- Ask someone from ESL program that certifies GTAs to sit in on the interview

**6. Report from Graduate Student Council – Amber Carrier, President**

- Graduate Research Symposium coming up on March 5. Abstracts are being accepted. Deadline has been extended to February 5, so if you have students that want to submit an abstract for a poster or presentation, have them contact Amber. Need more from Social Sciences
- Offering incentive for prizes for Best of Show (each category), and a \$25 Honorable Mention
- Ambers said judges were still needed to judge the posters. Amber asked the Council if anyone would like to volunteer to judge (2 representatives from all 3 disciplines). Beth will follow up with a note to faculty.

- There will also be oral presentations and possibly discussion panel groups from similar disciplines.
7. **Old Business** (none)
  8. **New Business** – (none)
  9. **Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted*  
*Jan Link, Recording Secretary*  
*2/2/10*

*Approved 3/23/10*