

GRADUATE FACULTY
Minutes of the Meeting
November 8, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m. by Dean Judith Walker de Felix.

I. Approval of previous minutes

The minutes of the April 2006 meeting were approved as submitted.

II. Changes in Policy

Faculty reviewed the suggested changes to

1. Eliminate required graduate faculty meetings each semester and provide for called meetings.
2. Graduate Council would become the body that makes policy.
3. Specify that Council members are elected from the units they represent.
4. Change Council members' term of office from two years to three years
5. Allow proxy voting by absent Council members.

Specific recommended changes are:

Delete paragraph 3 of section 2.1. Add paragraph below to section 1.2.:

Graduate Faculty may review, change or rescind any policies enacted by the Graduate Council. Graduate faculty who wish to call a Graduate Faculty meeting may submit to the Graduate Dean a petition *electronically* signed by 20 or more members of the Graduate Faculty, then a special meeting of the Faculty will be called to discuss and act on the actions in question.
(Faculty wanted the word 'electronically' added.)

Add to Section 2.2, at the end of paragraph 1:

By College or division of humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences of the College of Arts and Sciences, Graduate Faculty members will elect their representatives to the Graduate Council during normal election processes within the College.

(Faculty suggested the Dean communicate this requirement to the appropriate divisional dean.)

Revise Section 2.2, first part of paragraph two to reflect a change in term of service from two years to three years:

Membership on the Graduate Council shall be for three years, with one-third of the members replaced each year. To implement this, members at the time the

policy is enacted shall determine the method for changing members' terms from two to three years...

Change in Section 2.2, paragraph 4 to add option of a proxy vote:

When members of the Graduate Council cannot be present at a particular meeting, they may designate alternates to attend in their place. With prior electronic notification, alternates shall be allowed to participate in the meeting and they may vote.

Change Section 2.2, paragraph 7 revised by Graduate Faculty to state the charge of Graduate Council and how the new process works. Language was added to the proposal to establish a process for notification before Council discussion, after Council approval, and an effective date of Council actions.

The Graduate Council shall review, add, delete and/or revise the policies of the Graduate School and recommend priorities in new graduate programs to committees of the Faculty Senate and the Chancellor that consider planning and fiscal resources.

Normally, policy proposals must be electronically distributed to the Graduate Faculty at least seven days before they are discussed by Graduate Council. Policies enacted by Council shall take effect no sooner than 30 days after the Graduate Faculty has been notified.

Change in last paragraph of section 2.2 to reflect distribution of Council minutes/actions..

Minutes of the Graduate Council meetings shall be distributed electronically to all Graduate Faculty within 14 days.

Council unanimously approved the above changes in the rules and regulations.

Addition to 9.11:

All doctoral degrees require a dissertation as a final component of the program. The dissertation must be written on a subject approved by the candidate's doctoral dissertation committee, must embody the results of original and significant research and must be the candidate's own work.

After discussion about future degrees fitting into this requirement, Faculty approved the original wording as submitted.

III. Dean's Report

The campus is actively working on its accreditation report. A key component is being able to distinguish between our undergraduate and graduate programs. The Dean

suggested faculty look at the campus' accreditation website and see what other departments are doing. Some currently aren't too different and that will be a problem. How do you characterize the qualitative differences at the graduate level? This will be part of the five-year review process. Issues for some departments are 4000 level courses – since both graduates and undergraduates may take them. How do you differentiate between a 3000 level and 5000 level course that is being taught at the same time? The campus' accreditation report must be submitted in Fall 2008 and the site visit is scheduled for Spring 2009.

A group of graduate students are working to establishing a Graduate Student Association. They will be presenting their ideas to the Graduate Program Directors this month.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Heckel
On behalf of
Paulette Isaac Savage
Graduate Faculty Secretary