

GRADUATE COUNCIL
ELECTRONIC MEETING – May 29, 2008

Graduate Council was sent a request for review and vote electronically. On behalf of the Biology faculty, Dr. Wendy Olivas submitted a request to change the grading scheme for their Biology Graduate Research course (6905) to a satisfactory/unsatisfactory option. If approved, the change in grading would become effective Fall 2008.

Rationale:

Students performing research are evaluated in many ways for their research progression, including annual committee meetings, annual progress reports, and student research presentations. Because these other evaluations are used to determine satisfactory research progress, we feel the grading scheme for course credit in Graduate Research should reflect this type of judgment versus letter grades that are more difficult to distinguish for such a course. In addition, because graduate students can take up to half of their total credit hours as Research hours, we feel that a student's GPA should reflect their performance in course work and not be artificially influenced by credit hours of Graduate Research.

Comments:

One Council member questioned the possibility that half of a student's program could be made up of S/U grades in 6905. Responses were that this would not be a concern, that it is common on research in the sciences, and that the department be made aware of this concern.

Vote:

Eleven members voted to approve the change, 3 members did not respond and one abstained (Dr. Olivas). The change in grading passed. The Graduate School will notify the Registrar's office of this change.