

**UNIVERSITY COUNCIL FOR GRADUATE STUDIES  
AND RESEARCH**

**MINUTES**

**12 March 2004**

**Meeting Number 346**

**Present:** D. Arant (MALS), L. Bennett (CAS), S. Blanton (POLS), L. Brooks (MIS), Charles Camp (CIVIL, S. Pezeshk, proxy), J. Campbell (COMM), L. Clemens (HMSE), C. Danehower (FCBE), D. Franceschetti (PHYS), M. Logan (CCFA, K. Kreitner, proxy), K. Kreitner (Music), J. Pazar (GSA, Mike Butler, proxy), S. Pezeshk (CIVIL), E. Rakow (COE), S. Slack (Herff), L. Weiss (HMSE); K. Weddle-West (Assistant VPGS), J. Brownlee (GS)

**Absent:** B. Ching (ENGL), R. Koch (LSN), T. McInish (FIR), A. Meyers (VPR), D. Wark (AUSP),

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. when a quorum was achieved.

346.1. J. Campbell moved (2/E. Rakow) that the minutes of Meeting No. 346, 6 February 2004, be approved. The motion was carried by voice vote.

346.2. Announcements

346.2.1. K. Weddle-West announced that Ms. Pazar is recovering from surgery, so she reminded the Council of the Student Research Forum, scheduled for Monday, 12 April, 2004, in the University Center Ballroom. Applications are due 26 March 2004. Lunch will be served to participants and judges. K. Weddle-West asked Council members to urge colleagues to volunteer as judges. L. Bennett, L. Clemens, C. Danehower, D. Franceschetti all volunteered to be judges. Additional judges are still needed.

346.2.2. L. Bennett announced the new Excellence in Engaged Scholarship Award. Beginning next year, the nomination procedure will follow that of the Distinguished Research and Creativity Awards, but since this is such short notice, the procedure has been slightly modified. The evaluation by each college/school has been deleted for this year. Nominations should be sent directly to Dr. Andy Meyers, including the off-campus letters of recommendation, by the deadline—2 April 2004. Dr. Bennett distributed a chart summarizing the differences between conventional and engaged scholarship in order to clarify what the committee would be looking for. In discussion it was suggested that all colleges should be represented on the committee; at the moment, the College of Arts and Sciences has the only on-campus representatives.

346.2.3. K. Weddle-West announced that the orientation session for new Graduate Teaching Assistants will be held the morning of 27 August, so that colleges and departments can hold their own orientation that afternoon. There will be an orientation for new graduate students on 24 August.

346.2.4. N. Hurley reminded Council members that colleges should be electing new representatives this month.

346.3. New Business

346.3.1. Additional Curricular revisions, many due to the undergraduate program being reduced to 120 hours; others due to department restructuring.

346.3.1.1. J. Campbell moved (2/E. Rakow) that revisions to Theatre and Dance courses be approved. Motion carried by voice vote.

346.3.1.2. K. Kreitner moved (2/L.Bennett) that revisions to ECED courses be approved. Motion carried by voice vote.

346.3.1.3. K. Kreitner moved (2/E. Rakow) that revisions to CAS courses be approved. Motion carried by voice vote.

346.3.1.4. K. Kreitner moved (2/L. Weiss ) that revision to AUSP course be approved. Motion carried by voice vote.

346.3.2. N. Hurley introduced proposed changes to Section 2 of the Graduate Bulletin. Limiting the number of 6000-level courses that may be applied to a doctoral degree was tabled pending further discussion. K. Kreitner moved (2/E. Rakow) that the remaining revisions be approved. The motion was carried by voice vote.

346.3.3. K. Weddle-West told the Council that categories of Graduate Faculty will have to be refined in order to meet SACS requirements that instructors of graduate courses must have terminal degrees. Most likely, the category of Teaching Adjunct will be abolished and the eligibility for Adjunct and Affiliate will be revised. Revised "Guidelines for Graduate Faculty Membership" will be presented at the April meeting for discussion.

346.4. Old Business:

346.4.1. Proposal for a Regents Online Degree Program for the Master's of Science in Nursing

K. Weddle-West explained the need for a second on-line vote: the rush deadline was due to the Board of Nursing meeting on 10 March. The results were ambiguous: 9 for, 7 against, and 3 abstentions. Part of the problem is that the program will go ahead with or without our approval; if we do not join the program, we will have no benefits from it and no

possibility of influencing it. ETSU also has major concerns, raising some of the same issues we do, in particular SACS guidelines for on-line programs.

The individual university councils do not really have an opportunity to approve RODP programs, but they should have the opportunity to shape the curriculum, since the degrees are actually issued by the individual institutions. But nothing we say has the slightest effect, which carries the possibility that the quality of our degrees can be diminished.

It was also pointed out that the governing board (TBR) is encroaching on faculty roles as defined by SACS. No one has seen the correspondence between TBR and SACS pertaining to the RODP degrees: can we ask SACS to send us a copy of the proposal they saw, since the proposal has gone through several revisions. K. Weddle-West agreed to contact SACS on this matter. We also need to know who within SACS approved it. RODP includes concentrations that we don't have if the on-ground and on-line programs are to be identical, as SACS mandates.

#### 346.5. Discussion Items

346.5.1. Guidelines for students working on two doctoral degrees simultaneously. As K. Weddle-West had requested in February, the college directors discussed this issue with their graduate councils. The consensus was that students should write separate comprehensive exams and dissertations for each degree and that no more than 12 credit hours should count toward both degrees. A revised statement will be submitted to the Council in April for approval.

346.5.2. Limiting number of 6000-level hours that would apply toward a doctoral degree. This topic elicited extended discussion. Some felt it would encroach on the autonomy of the committee. Others suggested that a rule would require the student (or the committee) to make a cogent argument for an exception. K. Weddle-West requested the directors to ask their faculty if they could approve such a procedure. The question of whether the limitation would pertain to post-baccalaureate hours or to post-masters hours was also raised; it would be most problematic at the post-masters level. A revised statement will be submitted to the Council in April.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nancy Hurley