

**UNIVERSITY COUNCIL FOR GRADUATE STUDIES
AND RESEARCH**

MINUTES

6 April 2001

Meeting Number 322

Present: L. Bennett (CAS), P. Davis (FCBE), B. Gholson (Psych), A. Graham (Comm), M. Hamrick (HMSE), J. Hurley (Hist), W. Janna (Herff), W. Jermann (ECE), M. Logan (CCFA), E. Rakow (CEPR), D. Smith (EngTech), D. Horgan (Interim Dean)

Absent: S. Agrawal (FCBE), G. Baxter (Theatre), C. Jones (FCBE), R. VanArsdale (Geol), D. Wark (AUSP), K. Weddle-West (COE); P. Bridson (Interim VPR),

Guests: Graves Enck (University College)

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 pm.

- I. D. Smith moved (2/MH) that the minutes of Meeting 321, 2 March 2000, be approved with the following correction: "The proposal for a Computer Science major in Math Sciences was *tabled* [not withdrawn]. The motion was approved by voice vote.
- II. Announcements
- III.
 - A. N. Hurley drew Council's attention to the thirty-two winners of the 2001 Faculty Research Grants.
 - B. N. Hurley also drew Council's attention to the recipients of fellowships and student awards, including the first and second place winners of the Thirteenth Annual Student Research Forum.
 - C. N. Hurley reminded Council members that since May's meeting date conflicts with Spring Commencement, the May meeting will be held on Thursday, 3 May at 2 pm in MI 223.
- IV. Alternative Admission Criteria

Graves Enck, Coordinator of the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies in University College, described that program's alternative admission criteria. Since their students are mainly older, non-traditional ones, they do not require a standardized entrance examination. Instead, each applicant is required to have an interview with the coordinator; successful interviewees are then asked to submit a 5-page admission essay. Applicants are admitted to the program on the strength of the interview and essay combined. When asked about what steps are taken to ensure that the applicant has written the essay him- or herself, Dr. Enck admitted that so far none have been taken, although he has considered conducting a follow-up interview to discuss the essay with the applicant.

Dr. Horgan pointed out the need for more flexible entrance requirements in view of the University's increasingly non-traditional student profile. She suggested that programs consider instituting alternative admission criteria, such as exempting those over a certain age from taking the GRE or requiring a structured essay (perhaps analysis of an article in the discipline).

In the discussion following, Dr. Smith said that his department admits border-line applicants as non-degree and requires that they pass four specified courses with a grade of B or better before being admitted to the program. M. Hamrick noted that border-line students become very labor-intensive when they reach the thesis or special project stage and it would be helpful if they could be identified earlier. G. Enck agreed that we need a definition of special project—being very specific about what one is and how it is to be evaluated.

Dr. Horgan thanked Dr. Enck for his presentation and he excused himself from the rest of the meeting.

V. Discussion Items

Dr. Horgan brought up the request from University College that they be included as a voting member of the University Council for Graduate Studies and Research. She suggested that, since they have no separate faculty and the faculty they call on to teach their courses are already represented on the Council, University College be invited to send a representative to meetings as a non-voting guest. D. Smith (2/L. Bennett) so moved; the motion was carried by voice vote.

VI. New Business

Dr. Horgan announced that federal work/study money will be made available this fall for graduate assistantships. Meetings will be held over the summer to familiarize program personnel with the procedures. She asked that all eligible GAs submit FAFSA forms by 1 May so that the Graduate School will have information by 1 June 2001.

Their being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nancy Hurley