

# UNIVERSITY COUNCIL FOR GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH

## MINUTES

7 September 2001

Meeting Number 325

**Present:** S. Agrawal (FCBE), L. Bennett (CAS), J. Clay (Pub Admin), J. Hurley (Hist), W. Janna (Herff), C. Jones (FCBE), John Johnston (ICL), K. Kreitner (Music), M. Logan (CCFA), E. Rakow (CEPR), D. Smith (EngTech), R. VanArsdale (Geol), D. Wark (AUSP), K. Weddle-West (COE); D. Horgan (Interim Dean)

**Absent:** G. Baxter (Theatre), P. Davis (FCBE), S. Slack (BIOM), P. Bridson (Interim VPR),

**Guests:** None

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

- 325.1. D. Smith moved (2/E. Rakow) that the minutes of Meeting No. 324, 3 May 2001 be approved. The motion was carried by voice vote.
- 325.2. Announcements
- 325.2.1 D. Horgan was pleased to announce that things are looking up for the Graduate School. The new upper administration is very receptive to Graduate School needs and resources seem to be forthcoming.
- 325.2.2 She also announced that the GA contract process went very smoothly; there are 107 work-study GAs now, which means \$320,00 extra in the pool.
- 325.2.3 She further announced that the Provost wants to look at how GA tuition waivers are handled and wants to explore alternatives. Tuition is not actually waived—the University winds up paying for a good percentage of it. We need to look at the economic impact of tuition waivers—we may be supporting more students than we need to. This elicited a good bit of discussion from the floor: would this include revisiting the 12-hour rule? Can we track student's abuse of assistantships?
- 325.2.4 The Recruitment Office is going to focus on graduate recruitment, particularly for programs that are less well-known than the MBA and teacher education programs, such as a new on-line program in the College of Education. We need to make sure that we advertise only programs that can handle additional students.
- 325.2.5 Deadlines for faculty competitive awards: N. Hurley announced that faculty would be e-mailed about availability of application forms and that they would be posted on the Research Support Services homepage.

- 325.2.6 Deadline for catalog revisions: N. Hurley reiterated the need for 3 copies of all requests and the necessity of meeting the deadline of 22 October 2001.
- 325.2.7 Changes in Graduate Awards: D. Horgan clarified changes to the Provost's Predoctoral Diversity Awards. In response to a question from J. Hurley she said that a department can make a case for awarding one to a master's student who is on-track to the doctoral program in that department.
- 325.2.8 Meeting dates for 2001-2002: D. Horgan drew attention to the dates of future meetings and noted that there had been changes in commencement dates (due to conflicts in the Pyramid) and there may be corresponding changes in Council dates.
- 325.3. Discussion Items
- 325.3.1 Grade Appeals Committee: Dr. Horgan announced that the Council needed to elect a chair for this committee from among the members of the Council. There being no self-nominations, D. Smith moved (2/W. Janna) that S. Slack be asked to serve in this capacity in view of his well-known concern for students. The motion was carried unanimously. Dr. Horgan then asked the Council to e-mail her suggestions next week for four further committee members, two regular members and two alternates; they should be full or associate members of the graduate faculty who can teach 7/8000 level courses. These names will be voted on by e-mail so that the committee can be set up as soon as possible.
- 325.3.2 Review of Plus-Minus Grading: Dr. Horgan reiterated that faculty need to be fully aware of the consequences of this system. It appears that we have a number of students with low B averages for whom a B- will tip the scale and they will lose assistantships.
- 325.3.3 Revision of Council Bylaws: The Provost intends to keep the offices of Vice Provost for Research and Dean of the Graduate School separate, so the Bylaws have been revised to reflect this. D. Horgan asked members of the Council to look over the proposed revision and be prepared to vote at the next meeting.
- 325.3.4 Reducing print runs on Class Schedules: The Provost wants to reduce the print run and has solicited opinions. After some discussion the Council agreed that it would be a good way to save money and hoped that the money saved would be used for improving infrastructure to ensure convenient access to the on-line Schedule.
- 325.4. New Business
- 325.4.1 Dr. Horgan announced that the Council would be asked to approve several new programs at the October meeting. She also pointed out the TBR is more receptive to new certificate programs (that generally require less or no new infrastructure) than to full graduate programs. Since certificate programs usually require only 12-15 hours they are a good way for a program to innovate while increasing students' marketable skills.

325.4.2 L. Bennett asked for a report on the success of the SPEAK test. Dr. Horgan that the test had to be conducted one-on-one because of various external problems and the data is not available yet. She reminded the Council that the Speech and Hearing Center has accent reduction programs for free and that poor student evaluations can hurt young faculty members' chances of getting tenure.

There being no further business, D. Smith moved (2/K. Weddle-West) that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was carried by voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nancy Hurley