

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL FOR GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH

MINUTES

5 October 2001

Meeting Number 326

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

Absent: G. Baxter (Theatre), R P. Davis (FCBE), VanArsdale (Geol)

Guests: Dipankar Dasgupta (CS), Babajide Familoni (ECE), Stan Franklin (CS), David Russomanno (ECE)

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

326.1 D. Smith moved (2/K. Weddle-West) that the minutes of Meeting No. 325, 7 September 2001, be approved. The motion was carried by voice vote.

326.2 Announcements

326.2.1 New FRG and DRA guidelines: P. Bridson explained the rationale behind changes that he would like to make to the FRG and NFRIA programs and asked for the Council's support. It was strongly suggested that FRG decisions be announced prior to Spring Break. K. Weddle-West moved (2/D.Smith) that the Council support these changes. The motion was carried by voice vote. He then explained changes to the Distinguished Research and Creative Activity Awards. After a good deal of discussion about the validity of requiring outside evaluations, L. Bennett moved (2/M. Logan) that the Council support these changes. The motion was carried by voice vote. The announcement will be e-mailed to all faculty by the Provost's office and the guidelines for the two award programs will be posted on Research Support Services homepage. Hard copies will be available if requested, but will not be generally distributed.

326.2.2 D. Horgan drew members' attention to Sen. Dianne Feinstein's "Outline of Proposed Immigration Provisions to the Anti-Terrorist Legislation" and urged members to seriously consider how it might affect them and whether or not to contact their legislators on the matter.

326.3 New Program Proposals

- 326.3.1 MS and PhD majors in Computer Science: S. Franklin presented the Division's proposal for these two programs that would make official what has been unofficial for some time; it will benefit graduates to have the Computer Science major on their diplomas; and it will strengthen the Division's planned proposal for departmental status from TBR. L. Bennett moved (2/M. Logan) that the proposal be approved. The motion was carried with one abstention.
- 326.3.2 MS major and PhD concentration in Computer Engineering: B. Familoni presented the Department's proposal for these two programs, stressing that both Computer Science and Computer Engineering should be sent to TBR together to avoid the appearance of prejudice. After discussion concerning the importance of acquiring approvals in the proper manner and sequence, D. Smith moved (2/K. Weddle-West) that the proposal be approved by the University Council contingent upon the approval of the Herff College of Engineering college council in a timely manner. The motion was carried by a vote of 7 for, 0 against, and 3 abstentions. The proposals will be forwarded to the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs upon receipt of a properly signed Curricular Revision Cover Sheet from the College.
- 326.3.3 MS concentrations in Computational Physics and General Physics: L. Bennett presented this request from the Physics Department, pointing out that there is strong student interest and the computational concentration ties in with the CS proposal. In reply to a question from the floor about the number of non-physics courses required, she asserted that the college felt that the interdisciplinary nature of the program was a strength. It was also suggested that, in the current straitened circumstances, it might be better not to call a currently open and unfilled position a new position (in reference to V.B in TBR format B). D. Smith (2/L. Bennett) moved that the proposal be approved. The motion was carried by voice vote.
- 326.4 Old Business
- 326.4.1 D. Horgan presented a slate of proposed members of the Graduate Grade Appeals committee. The slate was drawn from a list nominated by Council members who had agreed to serve; it was designed to reflect diversity of race, gender, and discipline. D. Smith (2/K. Weddle-West) moved that the slate be approved as presented. The motion was carried by voice vote.
- 326.4.2 Revised bylaws of the University Council for Graduate Studies and Research: D. Smith (2/M. Logan) moved that the revisions be accepted. The motion was carried by voice vote.
- 326.5 New Business
- 326.5.1 D. Horgan introduced the President of the GSA, Rick Siders from the Law School, who will be the student representative to the Council. He is guardedly optimistic about getting a travel fund for the GSA, which should revive interest in the association. K. Weddle-West noted that the College of Education is setting up a college graduate student association.

326.5.2 D. Horgan went through highlights of the report on graduate assistantships that will be presented at the Dean's meeting, noting that 65% of our full-time degree-seeking students have GA positions, which is over double the national average of full-time master's students on assistantships.

326.5.3 D. Horgan introduced the necessity for alternatives to standardized tests for mature applicants to the Graduate School. A disproportionate number of non-degree students and minority students are trying to pass those tests to be fully admitted. The Graduate School will add a generic statement in the Admissions section of the Catalog that some professional and applied programs have alternative admission requirements for practicing professionals returning for graduate degrees. These programs will then be required to state explicitly what these requirements will be (such as a structured interview, a portfolio, or writing samples) and what is expected of applicants.

There being no further business, D. Smith moved (2/C. Jones) that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was carried by voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nancy Hurley