

Meeting of the Graduate Council December 2, 2002

Minutes

Present

Councilors: Donald Cyr, Steve Burian, Gerry Lesley, Alan Friedlander, Michelle Merriweather, Clyde Weed, Jerry Hauselt, James Thorson, Josephine Sche, Hak Joon Kim, Gwendolyn Nowlan, Joy Fopiano, Norris Haynes, Beena Achhpal, Cynthia McDaniels, Patricia Major, Nancy Boyles, Kristy Hebert, Marianne Kennedy, Edward Lynch, Jean Breny Bontempi, Joe Panza, Elayne Haymes, Ester Howe, Robert Axtell (for Jin Jin Yang)

Guests: Olive Santavenere, Gregory Kowalczyk, Sandra Holley, Lisa Galvin, DonnaJean Fredeen, Elaine Bennett

Call to Order

Chairman Jerome Hauselt called the meeting to order at 1:08 pm. A motion to approve the minutes of November 4 was made, seconded, and approved by the Council.

Announcements

Office of the Academic Vice President

No announcements made.

Graduate School Dean

Sandra Holley

The Dean of the Graduate School addressed the Council concerning the following issues:

1. The Fall Graduate Open House was a success with 547 attendees registering for the event. This was the greatest number of attendees since the first open house in 1996. Special accolades to Associate Dean Roseann Diana for her outstanding leadership in coordinating this event.
2. The Ad hoc Committee on Graduate Assistantships would appreciate the Council's review and comments on their definition of a Graduate Assistantship. This definition will be revised after input is received. The committee's plan is to request that the BOT approve the provision of tuition waivers for graduate students.
3. Dean Holley introduced one of this year's GSAC co-chairs, Elaine Bennett, MPH student. Ms. Bennett has written two resolutions for expanding food service on campus for graduate students. Her efforts in this matter also include the coordination of a meeting between GSAC and Berkshire representatives.

Committee Reports

Academic Standards

Marianne Kennedy

The next committee meeting will be on Monday, December 9th from 1-3 pm. The distribution of the Recreation and Leisure program report will be delayed.

Procedures

Joy Fopiano

The following individuals were recommended by the Procedures Committee, and approved by the Graduate Council, to be members of the graduate faculty: Dr. Suzanne Delp Carroll (MFT), Dr. Jim MacGregor (REC), Dr. Jean Mae (EXS), Dr. Cathryn Magno (EDL), Dr. Gary Morin (EXS), Dr. Elena Schmitt (FLA).

Curriculum

Nancy Boyles

There were two courses reviewed. ILS 684: The Historical and Cultural Integration of Music and the Oral Tradition and NUR 592: Special Project in Nursing. A recommendation by the Curriculum Committee to approve ILS 684 as is and NUR 592, with minor revisions, was approved by the Council.

Old Business

Graduate Program Review – Reading

Marianne Kennedy

Dr. Lois Dreyer presented the report for the graduate programs in Reading, which include an MS in Reading and a Sixth Year Professional Diploma. Currently, the department has 3.5 full-time faculty. Given that each member advises more than 100 students, it was strongly recommended that the number of faculty be increased to 5.5 full-time positions.

Following the presentation, the recommendation of the Academic Standards Committee (via their report) for *continuing approval* of the Reading graduate programs was approved unanimously by the Council.

A comment was made concerning the large number of programs who report to the Graduate Council their need for additional faculty to help with advising students. It was decided that the Executive Committee would continue to keep documentation of the programs who make this request to be used for requesting faculty positions for these programs.

Report on Definition of Full-Time Students

Sandra Holley

Associate Dean Roseann Diana attended the first meeting of the committee on the Definition of Full-Time Students, which was an orientation meeting to the committee. Currently, the definition of a full-time student in the CSU system, from an academic standpoint, is 9 credits for graduates and 12 credits for undergraduate students.

New Business

Graduate Program Review – Chemistry

Marianne Kennedy

Dr. Robert Snyder presented the graduate programs in Chemistry, which include an MS in Chemistry and a certification in Chemistry. Southern offers the only MS in chemistry in Connecticut. Dr. Snyder addressed a matter of low admission by presenting analysis on programs similar to Southern's MS in Chemistry program. Compared to similar programs, Southern's enrollment is on the higher end, admitting more than other programs and conferring a higher number of degrees.

Following the presentation, the recommendation of the Academic Standards Committee (via their report) for *conditional approval* of the Chemistry graduate programs was approved by the Council. Conditional approval allows the program a year to report back to the Academic Standards committee their response and revisions to comments made regarding their original report.

Report from Commission on Faculty Research and Creativity

Joan Finn

The culmination of the Commission on Faculty Research and Creativity resulted in three areas of proposed action steps. They are: administrative initiatives, shared governance issues, and CSU policies. Dr. Finn presented action steps within these areas as a way of sharing the information that came out of the Commission's efforts. It is hoped that action will be taken on the Commission's proposal to increase the opportunities for research and creativity among Southern faculty.

Adjournment

Chairman Hauselt adjourned the meeting at 2:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean M. Breny Bontempi, Secretary