

# Meeting of the Graduate Council December 5, 2005

## Minutes

### Present

*Councilors:* Arts and Sciences—Kristine Anthis, Polly Beals, Jon Bloch, Steve Burian, Ken Florey, Ross Gingrich, Gerry Lesley, Patricia Olney, Ruben Pelayo, James Tait, , Jessie Whitehead; Business—Durga Prasad, James Thorson; CLIS—Yan Liu, Hrvoje Podnar, Gwendolyn Nowlan, Jane McGinn; Education-, Beena Achhpal, Bernard Hayford, Robert Axtell, Nancy Boyles, Kay Corbett, William Diffley, Joy Fopiano, Norris Haynes, Doris Marino, Beth Taylor; David Squires, Jule Tolis; HHS—Jean Breny Bontempi, Eileen Crutchlow, Roy Hunter, Edward Lynch, Mary Purdy, Al Siegel.

*Guests/Observers:* Provost Selase Williams, Dean Sandra Holley, Associate Dean Roseann Diana, Assistant Dean Lisa Galvin, Former Graduate Council Chairperson Susan Killion.

### 1. Call to Order

Chairperson Gerald Lesley called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm.

### 2. Disposition of Minutes of November 7, 2005

A motion was made to approve the minutes of November 7, 2005. The motion passed unanimously.

### 3. Announcements

*a) Office of the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs* Dr. Selase Williams

Dr. Williams said he was pleased following a site visit by the Department of Higher Education to evaluate the Ed.D. program. He said the site visitors were impressed by the student and faculty research, the articulate ways in which students presented their research, and by the meaningfulness of the program. While no formal response had been filed, Dr. Williams said he could tell from the exit interview that it was clear that the DHE was going to recommend that the Ed.D. program be fully accredited.

Dr. Williams reiterated that he is very supportive of graduate education. As a flagship program, he said Southern's Graduate School must be vigilant that programs stand up to any test and must be establishing and maintaining the highest possible standards. He knows there is a discussion about what constitutes a graduate faculty and said he believed we should maintain the highest standards of the university. Dr. Williams would therefore prefer to see very selective criteria for graduate faculty membership even if we will need to make exceptions because of the broad range of backgrounds of our faculty. However, he would rather maintain the highest standards and then make exceptions than to incorporate exceptions into the standards.

Dean Holly said that compared to the same date last year, we have more students applying to participate in the Graduate Commencement. She reminded the Councilors to let students know that they must file an application for the degree at the Registrar's office and file a separate application with the Graduate School office to participate in the commencement ceremony. Dean Holley also reminded Councilors of the Graduate School policy which stipulates that non-matriculated students may earn no more than nine credits toward a graduate degree. She encouraged Councilors to inform their constituents of this policy and to encourage all degree seeking graduate students to matriculate. She went on to make the following announcements:

The Fall Open House was a splendid success breaking all records since the first open house in 1996. Over 450 persons attended the event.

She again thanked the entire faculty and staff who contributed to the success of the event, and said Associate Dean Roseann Diana deserved special accolades for her outstanding leadership in organizing and coordinating the event.

The Graduate School office was relocated from its former location in the basement to the first floor of Engleman Hall room 110B. Dean Holley said the Graduate School wanted to acknowledge and thank President Norton for making the relocation a reality!

She said the staff was attempting to maintain normal office functions while simultaneously unpacking and organizing their files. She asked faculty, staff, and students to recognize the staff's state of transition and said we should rest assured that they will return to their normal efficiency as soon as possible.

Finally she said gave us her best wishes for the successful conclusion of the Fall Semester and a most happy holiday season.

#### 4. Reports

##### *a. Academic Standards*

Ken Florey

Dr. Ken Florey, Chair of the Academic Standards Committee (ASC), announced that the committee had reviewed the five-year report of the graduate program in the Department of Education. He said that the ASC would hold their next meeting in EN 122D, the Math Department Seminar Room.

##### *b. Procedures*

Jane McGinn

Dr. Jane McGinn, Chair of the Procedures Committee, announced the committee had recommended four nominations to the Graduate Faculty. The approved nominees were: Dr. Kenty-Drane from Sociology, Dr. Amal Adb El-Raouf from Computer Science, Dr.

Mark Cameron from Social Work, and Dr. Imad Antonios from Computer Science. A motion to approve these recommendations passed unanimously.

*c. Curriculum*

Mary Purdy

Dr. Mary Purdy, Chair of the Graduate Council Curriculum Committee (GCCC), announced that the committee had reviewed five new course proposals. NUR 505: Healthcare Organization, Systems, and Policy was approved with minor changes due to inconsistencies with the course number on the forms. NUR 512: Principled Nursing Leadership, NUR: Healthcare Informatics for Nursing Practice, NUR 527: Pathophysiological Basis for Pharmacological Therapies I and NUR 528: Pathophysiological Basis for Pharmacological Therapies II were approved as written. The motion to approve these recommendations passed unanimously.

The Curriculum committee also reviewed a program revision for the Master of Science in Nursing, Nursing Education program. Changes were made due to new accreditation standards and consisted of adding the five courses mentioned above as core courses, and omitting an outside research course. Students will now need a research course coming into the Nursing program and there is a graduate level course in the Nursing department on research. The Curriculum committee recommended approval with minor revisions, including clarification on course names and numbers. The committee commended the Nursing Department because the changes were all in the direction of increasing the standards. The motion to approve this recommendation passed unanimously.

5. Old Business

*a. Rules of Order – Update*

Gerry Lesley

Dr. Gerry Lesley, Chair of the Graduate Council, announced that Dr. O'Brian from the Faculty Senate had told him that they voted unanimously not to pass the Rules of Order due to the exclusion clause in the rules for nomination of graduate faculty. He said they will be sending them back with revisions to section A-1. He said that the Faculty Senate had no other issues with the recommended changes and noted that the process for obtaining their approval should be faster this time.

*b. Graduate Faculty Nomination Forms- Update*

Graduate Faculty Nomination Forms – requirements used to be more stringent. We will have only one form from now on. Any changes will not be approved until the Rules of Order in their revised form are approved by the Faculty Senate.

6. New Business

Gerry Lesley

*a. Council/Committee Room Assignments for Spring 2006*

Dr. Gerry Lesley announced that the new meeting room for the Procedures Committee will be EN C009. The new room for the Graduate Council will be EN C112. The assignment of rooms for the ACS and Curriculum committee will be in EN B121A/B, respectively, and will be posted on the Graduate School Website.

*b. Graduate Program Review- Education*

Ken Florey

Dr. Maria Diamantis gave an oral overview of the graduate program in Education. Dr. Florey said that the ASC had voted to grant continuing approval for the Education program. The motion to recommend continuing approval passed unanimously.

*c. Academic Computing/OIT*

Stan Walonoski and Bob Cuddihee

Prof. Walonoski and Dr. Cuddihee reviewed the different technological services available to faculty including the inception of new resources such as large format posters. They invited the Councilors to make use of their services as they could only help a relatively small group of faculty members with the available resources. They believed the Councilors in attendance were a good group to start with.

7. Adjournment

Chairperson Lesley adjourned the meeting at 2:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patricia Olney, Secretary