

**Graduate Council Minutes**  
**2/23/2010, 11:30-12:30PM**

Members Present: Susan Loonsk, Orv Clark, Ella Cross, Peggy Marciniac, Jennifer Christensen (Chair), Keith Berry (Secretary), Rhoda Robinson (Associate Dean)

Member/s Absent: Jim Geidner, Faith Hensrud

Agenda approved (E. Cross motion/O. Clark second, unanimous vote)

1/26/10 meeting minutes approved (O. Clark/Marciniac, unanimous vote)

Chair Announcements:

Jennifer reports that Faculty Senate gave okay to review Graduate Council Charter. She will distribute copies of Charter to Graduate Council members.

There's a conflict with meeting dates. Jennifer will send follow up email in an effort to change the two remaining dates of the spring semester affected by the conflict.

All graduate faculty meeting: Tuesday 4/20, 3-5p. Rhoda Robinson will work with Graduate Studies Office regarding pot luck. Council members are asked to inform their respective departments of the gathering.

How should we consider and vote on Graduate Faculty Status for full and limited faculty? Council revisited past discussions on reasoning and possible ramifications of officially "approving" new, terminal degree holding, full time faculty members as graduate faculty. K. Berry and S. Loonsk, among others, suggested that the process was redundant. That is, if folks are hired in full time with terminal degree, they're approved to be a graduate faculty member. R. Robinson suggested the practice has been a tradition that served to welcome new faculty members to graduate faculty and, so, serves a status function.

*ACTION TAKEN:* Council determined by consensus that no formal acceptance of terminal degree holding full time faculty is needed. Only limited faculty members still need approval. That approval should occur by this academic year's last meeting, May 4<sup>th</sup>. Please inform departments.

R. Robinson informed the group that discussions concerning Charter review will further handle this issue.

Associate Dean's Report:

Graduate Studies office continues to review communication flow processes, currently re-looking at application process/checklist.

Monday May 17: Orientation for new graduate students. This orientation is the first in an experimental process. Jodie of the Graduate Studies office is in charge of set up. Location: Yellow Jacket Union, Suite 230. Feedback is welcomed after the Orientation, as a means of improving the next one, currently planned for Fall 2010.

Graduate Special Status: Council members are asked to review the last page of distributed handout (“Draft Process for Grad Special Studies...”), bring the drafted process to departments for feedback, and bring results to next Council meeting. (This issue relates to a past concern brought forward with Terri Kronzer on confusion among some Graduate Special Status students concerning their status. Admitted to the program or just as a Special Status?)

#### Old Business:

(5a) Council engaged, and in some cases, (re)engaged several specific questions brought by Graduate Studies Office. The following list illustrates the clarification work that resulted.

1. Do we want to forward applications to departments as they come in, or in a bunch/group? S. Loonsk prefers as they come in, to provide more helpful feedback, as needed, to applicant. K. Berry concurs. O. Clark also likes the continuous flow path, as it is the program’s decision to hold the decision on admission until a given deadline or not.
2. Council reiterated decision from a past meeting that advisors are, in fact, necessary and helpful for Special Status graduate students, and that the advising should take place at the departmental level. O. Clark suggested a specially colored folder to use for Special Status students, to assist with organization.
3. Council determined that GPA calculation for graduation should remain a program-specific plan; that is, GPA to be determined based on the program plan vs. overall GPA for all courses that might have been taken.
4. Sandy had question from advisor who was unsure how to approve individual variances in program plans. Council confirmed that advisor does this authorizing.

(5b) Discussion took place about issues, essentially, pertaining to the focus of work done by Graduate Council. To what extent will we engage “clean up” work, and how might that impact our ability to attend to additional matters important to Graduate Studies. O. Clark requested to review the Strategic Plan created during the 2008/2009 Academic Year. K. Berry and others echoed the request.

Meeting adjourned.

[Minutes transcribed by Keith Berry (Communicating Arts). Please do not hesitate to report any infelicities, necessary additions or deletions ASAP.]