

MINUTES
GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING
March 16, 2009, 3:30 PM

The Graduate Council met in the Dick Smith Library's Multi-purpose Room, with Drs. Rick Cruz, Keith Emmert, James Mueller, Carol Thompson, David Weissenburger, Roger Wittie, Rusty Freed, James Vardalis, Jeanelle Barrett (for SACS), David Drueckhammer, Hussain Jafri, Henry Crockett, Matt Wickes (student rep), Kayla Peak, Mark Shipman for Marcy Tanter, George Mollick, guest: Chris Higgins and Brandon Shipman from COGS. Dr. Linda Jones presided. Not in attendance were Drs. Sue Erwin and Danna Beaty.

Dr. Jones called the meeting to order and introduced guest, Chris Higgins from the department of Biological Sciences. She asked for action on the minutes of the last meeting in February 2009. Dr. Thompson moved to approve, Dr. Freed seconded, motion carried.

Graduate Faculty Nominations

College of Education

Dr. Kayla Peak, Department of Health & Physical Education, moved for approval of Dr. Jennifer S. Blevins-McNaughton for associate responsibility.

College of Liberal and Fine Arts

For the Dept. of Fine Arts, Dr. Jones presented for approval of Dr. Cara Pollard and Ms. Jennifer Groseth, both for associate responsibility.

Before the Council voted by ballot, Dr. Jones proposed to defer Ms. Jennifer Groseth from the ballot in order to further investigate match of proposed duties with SACS requirements for 18 hours in content-level in the terminal degree. Additional departmental discussion was needed and an email vote will follow. Majority voted approved for Drs. McNaughton and Pollard, the two graduate faculty nomination carried.

Curriculum Items

- College of Agriculture and Human Sciences, Department of AAHRM
09087, New Course (AGRN 509)
09091, Course Deletion (AGRN 530)
09121, Course Deletion (AGRN 527)

Dr. Wittie moved to present first the two course deletions and Dr. Emmert seconded. After discussion, the motion carried.

Dr. Wittie moved to present the new course addition and Dr. Drueckhammer seconded. After discussion, the motion carried.

Dr. Jones brought the ongoing discussion back to the table on the problem(s) with the awarding of incomplete (K) grades to graduate students. The suggestion was made to request the option to award a K be taken off the list of possible grades and if it is completely necessary to give a K

grade, that it require department head approval. Dr. Jones agreed to relay the Council's thoughts back to the Dean of EM and explore the possibilities.

Dr. Chris Higgins, Dept. of Biology, was invited to address the Council, presenting to them, his Department's proposal to lower the minimum required hours for thesis-only students to 30. He shared documents that COGS and Dr. Russell Pfau (BIOL) prepared that contained comparative data and a list of the TSU thesis students from the past two years. Higgins said it was unfair to require the full 36 hours of thesis students. He proposed 24 hours of coursework and 6 hours of thesis-research hours. He stressed that it is a much needed move for his department, but that it would be up to each department to determine hours up to 36 for their thesis students. Dr. Jones asked the Council to take the comments back to their Deans and departmental faculty for discussion.

Dr. Linda Jones announced graduation commencement changes as well as an addition of a separate hooding ceremony for master's graduates. She also shared a draft of the potentially new COGS gonfalon for commencement use.

She announced that the MAT (Miller Analogies Test) is now approved as a graduate entrance exam and that each department can choose whether or not they will accept it over or in addition to the GRE and GMAT.

Reminders were given out regarding the next research symposium and junior faculty workshop.

Brandon, COGS, mentioned the newly launched graduate marketing venue: GradView.com and ask Council members to go online and check that out.

The meeting adjourned at 4:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
BS