



GRADUATE COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting Held on October 7, 2008

- Present:* Dean Vogelsang-Coombs, Professors Karem, Bathala, Dixit, Ingersoll, Goodell, Weinstein, Holcomb, Weyman, Rudd, Smith, W. Bowen, Mensforth, Delgado, Thornton, Bailey
- Absent/Excused:* Professors Medina-Rivera, Simon, Chatzimavroudis, C. Bowen
- Guests:* Professor Lupton, Chair, Math Department
Associate Dean Kellogg, Levin College of Urban Affairs

Dean Vogelsang-Coombs called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

1. The Council approved the minutes of the May 6, 2008 and September 9, 2008 meetings pending the addition of the attendance at each meeting for the record.
2. Dean's Remarks: The Graduate Council is both a representative body and a deliberative body. The Dean suggested a format to insure that Council meetings are inclusive and productive and enable the Council meeting to adjourn on time. The Council agreed to try this format on a pilot basis and to change it if necessary.
3. Professors Lupton and Holcomb presented a proposal for a new Specialization in Applied Statistics as a part of the MS Program in Mathematics. The Council approved the specialization.
4. Program Reviews: Before discussing specific program reviews conducted in 2007-2008, the Graduate Council reviewed its role in Program Reviews as per the Graduate Faculty Bylaws approved by the Board of Trustees in 2005, and the University Curriculum Committee (UCC) Handbook for Program Review, also as approved in 2005.

Per the review handbook, the Graduate Council may take into account the results of program reviews in its deliberations concerning graduate policies and the direction of graduate education at CSU. The Graduate Council will have an opportunity to discuss the role of the Graduate Council in the program review process in depth as the Council proposes changes in the Graduate Faculty By-Laws.

5. Council members shared specific comments on individual program reviews.

Social Work: How can the School of Social Work improve student performance on licensure exams? The issue of academic standards was a concern. The School produces considerable credit hours for CLASS but relies heavily on part-time instructors. Social Work has 242 students in the MSW Program. This is a very large master's program for so few full-time faculty members.

Social Work has achieved an exceptional level in placements at the undergraduate level, but the Council was concerned about the faculty's oversight of these placements. To what extent is this problem jeopardizing Social Work's compliance with national standards of accreditation?

Modern Languages: The Council noted that too much instruction is being delivered by adjuncts. An external reviewer raised the question concerning training related to the prevention of sexual harassment of students. The College of Graduate Studies provides sexual harassment training at the Graduate Assistant Orientation Program each August.

History: The Dean noted the excellent review received by the History Department.

Anthropology: The Graduate Council expressed concern over the Department's ongoing state of emergency and declining enrollments. However, closing the Anthropology program could have repercussions for other disciplines that rely on Anthropology. The Dean should express the Council's concern.

Psychology: The Peoplesoft System does not give the Department enough data or timely access to data, causing the Department to keep its own record system. The multiple graduate psychology programs operate autonomously. Other departments have approached Psychology to participate in proposals that have come before the Graduate Council, but the department has often declined involvement. It is worth noting that the current chair of the Department has made an effort to collaborate in spite of the trend for psychology programs to be more specialized.

Overarching comment: The Council noted that each program review reports a concern for the excessive use of part-time instructors, and the reviewers expressed concern over a lack of full-time faculty lines.

6. Associate Dean Kellogg presented a proposal to revise Graduate Faculty Status requirements for practitioners at the Levin College of Urban Affairs. The Graduate Council approved the revision.

7. Discussion of the Report prepared by the Ad-Hoc Committee on Graduate Assistants.

CSU has had a written policy for graduate assistants since the mid-1970s, and the primary purpose is for graduate assistants to serve as apprenticeships. Three types of graduate assistants are offered at CSU: (1) teaching assistants, (2) research assistants, and (3) administrative assistants. For each type, the graduate assistantship must extend the student's educational experience.

The Committee found that peer institutions did not use graduate assistants in administrative roles. The Committee concluded that the CSU policy of an apprenticeship requirement is adequate and does not require a change.

The stipend for graduate assistants is problematic and has not increased in at least ten years. The Dean consulted the Council of Graduate Schools and found that in 2004, doctoral students in public universities, on average, received stipends of \$12,500 as compared with CSU's minimum doctoral-level stipend of \$7,800 for 2008-2009.

The Provost has proposed to increase the compensation and allocation for graduate assistantships. Her plan is to use graduate student assistants in whom CSU is investing to help undergraduates and enrich their academic experience. The Provost has made a commitment to reinvest funds gained from the increase in first-year full-time freshman and undergraduate retention toward graduate assistants.

Interim Dean Jeffres set up the Ad-Hoc Committee on Graduate Assistants in fall 2007. This Committee submitted its report to the Dean of Graduate Studies in June 2008.

The Provost met with the Graduate Council in April 2008 to express her views on the proper use of different types of graduate assistants.

Dr. Bailey distributed data that showed how the Academic Colleges allocated different types of graduate assistantships and tuition grants in Fall 2007 and Fall 2008.

- As a proportion of total Graduate Assistants, students assigned teaching assistantships increased from 25.1% in Fall 2007 to 31.5% in Fall 2008.
- As a proportion of total tuition grants, those assigned instructional responsibilities increased from 13.7% to 37.4%.
- For research graduate assistants, the proportions changed from 49.7% to 37% for the 2007-2008 period.
- For Tuition Grant students, the proportion assigned research responsibilities declined from 45.6% to 23.6% over the same period.

The data suggest that the Academic Deans used their discretion which has resulted in more teaching assistants and fewer research assistants.

The Graduate Council expressed concern that the exercise of discretion has led to a de facto change in the policy. The Graduate Council was not a part of the decision-making process.

One member asked the Graduate Council not to support the change in policy because it was ill advised and ill-thought through. Another member asked the Graduate Dean for her opinion as to whether it was a good use of time and resources to challenge the new policy because it appears the Provost has already made her decision.

The Council would like information about graduate assistantship subsidy income and expenses and if the Academic Colleges are applying the norm of apprenticeship or the alternative teaching model in making graduate assistantship allocations and assignments. The Graduate Council seeks fairness in the allocation of graduate assistantships.

8. The Dean facilitated items for a follow-up Action Plan, as follows:
 1. Collect more data on graduate assistantship policy of the CUMU and the Urban 21 institutions
 2. Invite the Provost to the next Graduate Council meeting to clarify the following:
 - (a) Has the University changed the graduate assistantship policy or changed the practice? Is the change a pilot, and if so, when will it be reviewed?
 - (b) What is the impact on graduate programs of the change in state subsidy based on the retention of first-year full-time freshmen?
 - (c) What are the plans to grow the budget for graduate assistantships?
 3. Sort the data on graduate assistantships by hard vs. soft money, including Cleveland Clinic funding.
- The Graduate Council selected Professors Mensforth and Delgado to serve on a committee with the Dean to select CSU's nomination for the Midwest Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) Distinguished Thesis Award.
- New Business. The Graduate Council elected Professor Karem as its representative to the University Research Council.
- Committee Reports: None.

The Dean adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 12th at 2:00 p.m. in Room 200 of Parker-Hannifin Hall.