

GRADUATE COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting Held on December 8, 2008

Present: Dean Vogelsang-Coombs, Professors Medina-Rivera, Karem, Bathala, Dixit, Goodell, Simon, Chatzimavroudis, Weinstein, Holcomb, Weyman, Rudd, Bowen, Chieh-Chen Bowen, Mensforth

Absent/Excused: Professors Ingersoll, Smith, Delgado; Dr. Thornton

Guests: Professor Talu, College of Engineering;
Associate Dean Anderson, College of Science

Dean Vogelsang-Coombs called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

1. **Approval of the Agenda.** One item was added to the agenda—per Professor Karem’s request: the identification and approval of replacements for him on two Council committees, Program Review & Council Representative to the University Research Council
2. **Approval of November 2008 Minutes.** Council unanimously approved the minutes of the November 12, 2008 meeting.
3. **Dean’s Remarks:**

The Dean met with Jody Oelbracht, Student Government Representative to Graduate Council and has invited her to attend the 2008-2009 meetings.

Dean Coombs attended the Council of Graduate Schools Annual Meeting and shared six lessons that she learned.

4. **Committee Reports**

- a) **Graduate Faculty Review**

Dr. Bailey reported that the Committee met and reviewed 68 applications for new or continuing Graduate Faculty Status. The Committee recommended 64 applications for a 5-year appointments and one application for a 3-year appointment. Three applications were put on hold until the Spring 2009 semester. The Graduate Council unanimously approved these recommendations.

- b) **University Curriculum Committee (UCC)**

Dean Coombs attended the November UCC meeting with Dr. Belovich to support the proposal for the Masters in Biomedical Engineering Program. The UCC raised a question about a listing for a 400/600 course in the proposal, re: a possible OBOR violation. The Committee Chairperson has asked the Dean to find a written OBOR policy on this matter.

5. New agenda item: Approval of Committee Replacements for Prof. Karen

Professor Bathala was approved as Prof. Karem's replacement to serve as the Representative to University Research Council.

No one volunteered to replace Prof. Karem on the Program Review Committee.

6. Old Business— Review of Graduate Admission categories

a) Dean Coombs reviewed the 3 types of admission categories listed in the Graduate Catalog: regular, conditional, provisional. In March 2008 Graduate Council voted to eliminate the provisional category. However, the UCC reviewed the proposal and sent it back to the Graduate Council because of "language & inconsistent material issues." Discussion followed on the history of these proposed categories.

b) The Graduate Council discussed the issues that led to the decision last year to eliminate the provisional category. A consensus emerged that the current categories and conditions were confusing. A suggestion was made for "regular graduate admission pending completion of the file" for the provisional category. The discussion was tabled for further review and revision before the Council takes action.

Prof. Alan Weinstein volunteered to draft the language for the new proposed provisional category.

c) Dean Coombs solicited the Council's advice on compelling memos for conditional admits re: domestic graduate students.

Dr. Bailey explained the conditional category (listed as type I in the Graduate Catalog). The Center for International Services & Program supports the type I conditional admission for qualified international students who have English language deficiencies. The type II of conditional admission is for domestic students who do not meet the College of Graduate Studies' or program requirements but who show promise. It was originally thought that the type II conditional admission would be for exceptional cases only and used rarely. Students who fail to meet the conditions in a specified amount of time are dismissed from the University.

The Council discussed the non-degree category in relation to conditional and as another option in lieu of conditional admissions for domestic students.

The Dean expressed concern about conditional admissions for domestic students (type II) as "back door" for students with very poor academic records. She is also concerned that the dismissed (conditionally admitted) students would end up spending a year amassing large debt and would have no course work count toward a degree. It appears to be more humane to admit these students as non-degrees, allowing them to demonstrate that they can handle graduate work in a limited number of courses. A Council member expressed concern over non-degree students in doctoral programs. Another concern was expressed that having non-degree students in a class can change the focus, discussion, and the level of the course. Both can be monitored at the program level.

Some Council members felt that the discussion was to eliminate the conditional category. Dean Coombs clarified that her focus was on the type II conditional admission, and the original intention was to use it sparingly.

7. New Business

a) [CSU-Bahcesehir University 3+1+1 Program in Biomedical Engineering](#): Dr. Talu presented his 3+1+1 proposal for Engineering students in partnership with Bahcesehir University in Turkey. In the fourth year, participating students are at CSU taking both undergraduate and graduate courses. The Graduate Council's approval is needed because these students will take 12 credit hours of graduate courses and one class is at a 600-level. The Catalog currently specifies a maximum of 9 credits at the 500-level only. The Dean reported that the Graduate Council and subsequently the Faculty Senate approved (May 2, 2007), that students in the accelerated programs may double-count up to 12 hours.

Council members expressed concern over the course numbering, 600/800. They also wanted a guarantee that no additional faculty are required. It was also questioned whether this 3+1+1 program differs from the existing Masters in Biomedical Engineering. Dr. Talu replied it did not.

Graduate Council asked that the 600 course listing for the fourth year be changed to 500-level just for those in this program. A motion was proposed to approve the program with a proviso of the 600 level course becoming 500 level, and approval of an increase to 12 credit hours. The motion was approved with one abstention. Graduate Council will need to receive the updated text in a revised proposal.

b) [Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Certificate](#): Dr. Anderson presented the Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Certificate proposal from the Chemistry Department. This is a 12 credit certificate program with an option to do an external entrepreneurship with a starter company. There is a new course involved and one course has a 400/600 number.

The motion to approve the new Chemistry course (with a 500 number added) and the Certificate proposal was unanimously approved.

c) **Visit of Chancellor Fingerhut to CSU – Feb. 5-6, 2009**: The Dean asked for suggestions on what to present to Chancellor Fingerhut related to graduate programs, faculty, and students during his visit. Council members suggested that he visit with graduate students, and see the Writing Center. CSU should present the funding deficits, and take advantage of dialoguing with him.

d) **Graduate Program Review**— Dean Coombs suggested some broader graduate assessment criteria that the Council Representatives working on program reviews might suggest to strengthen the process. These criteria are admission standards, distribution of GA assistantships, time to complete degrees, and faculty scholarship. Council members raised additional criteria, including the number of faculty members, differences of the graduate housed within the same departments (specifically Psychology), and staffing ratios (part time faculty a major concern).

7. **Information items:**

a) The Dean distributed an article from the *Chronicle of Higher Education* about graduate stipends. She informed the Council that she has asked the Graduate Deans at other Ohio colleges/universities to share their stipend level information. We will report on this at a later date.

b) The Kent State proposal for an MS in Applied Social & Behavioral Research was turned down at the RACGS meeting in November. It looks as though KSU is interested in starting up a College of Public Health even though it is an institutional member of the consortium for the Master of Public Health. Besides being poorly conceived, this proposal was perceived as undermining the Northeast Ohio MPH Consortium, which is a model of inter-institutional collaboration.

8. **Next Meeting:** The next Council meeting is scheduled for January 22nd at 2:00 p.m. in Room 200 of Parker-Hannifin Hall.

9. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.