

Faculty Senate

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Graduate Council

DATE: June 28, 2002

TO: Nancy Rosenberger, President
Faculty Senate

FROM: Vincent Remcho, Chair
Graduate Council

RE: 2001-2002 Annual Report - Graduate Council

Membership on the Graduate Council in 2001-2002 included 13 voting members (Vincent Remcho, Chair, Science; David Brauner, Liberal Arts; Carol Caughey, AIHM; Tony Collins, Pharmacy; Paul Cull, Engineering; Vicki Ebbeck, Health and Human Performance; Martin Fisk, Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences; Doug Markle, Agricultural Sciences; Chandra Mishra, Business; Steve Radosevich, Forestry; Alex Sanchez, Education; Barbara Watrous, Veterinary Medicine and Delores McNair, student member) and 3 non-voting members (Sally Francis, Dean of the Graduate School, Bruce Rettig, Associate Dean of the Graduate School, and Maggie Niess, Chair of the Graduate Admissions Committee). Mary Prucha, Coordinator of Graduate Student Services and Jill Anderson, secretary to the Dean, attended nearly all meetings.

The Council reviewed and approved the following Category I proposals: renaming the Forest Products department and all of its graduate degree programs; creation of a College of Health and Human Sciences; and renaming of all current Human Performance graduate degrees. The Council reviewed and commented on a category I proposal to create a School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science; following discussion, the proposal was withdrawn from consideration.

A subcommittee of David Brauner, Martin Fisk, and Alex Sanchez worked with Associate Dean Bruce Rettig to review and approve Category II proposals.

Awards subcommittees included: the Sports Lottery committee - Alex Sanchez, Tony Collins, Vicki Ebbeck; Bayley and Yerex Awards committee - Chandra Mishra, Barbara Watrous, Steve Radosevich; Frolander Outstanding GTA Award representative - Carol Caughey; and the CGS/UMI Dissertation and WAGS/UMI Dissertation Awards representative - Doug Markle.

The Graduate Council conducted 5 program reviews this year. Graduate programs reviewed were Agriculture and Resource Economics, Physics, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Forest Resources, and Education (Community College Leadership Program - CCLP). All reports were completed and approved except for CCLP, which was reviewed in early June. A draft report is being circulated amongst the review team members; the final report should be finished soon and available for review when the Council resumes meetings in the fall. In addition, the Council approved the review of the Zoology program conducted in 2001.

The Council conducted five follow-up reviews of programs. They included Bioresource Engineering, Nutrition and Food Management, Counseling, Human Performance and Movement Studies, and Animal Science.

Members of the Council met with President Paul Risser (the chair at a meeting arranged by the Faculty Senate President and other members at various open-forum meetings) to express their concerns about common issues facing all graduate programs in light of the University's fiscal situation.

The Council discussed at length the report prepared by a committee on Graduate Level Learning chaired by Jack Higginbotham, reviewed recommendations of the Graduate Admissions Task Force, and proposed a policy to eliminate 400/500 ("slash") courses at OSU, renumbering current slash courses as either 400 or 500 level. The policy proposal was put forward for public comment via the Graduate School web site, and sent to the Curriculum Council for comment. Vincent Remcho met with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to

present the Graduate Council proposal. The Curriculum Council discussed the proposal at length and recommended that it not be approved as written. Concerns expressed by the Curriculum Council included the following:

- Budgets aren't big enough to allow departments to offer adequate numbers of separate 400-level courses and 500-level courses. With fewer offerings, the ability of students to choose between electives is diminished.
- There aren't enough graduate students to justify offering separate 500-level courses.
- Even if 400-level and 500-level courses were split, the lectures would be nearly identical. The real difference is in the assignments. If an instructor can't make the 500-level portion of a "slash" course more rigorous, we should provide that person with additional pedagogical training.

The response of the Curriculum Council suggested that further discussion and amendment of the suggested policy was necessary. At the close of the academic year, these discussions were underway. This will be a continuing agenda item for the Graduate Council in 2002/2003.

The Council addressed guidelines for reclassification of conditional (English) admission, provided requested input on the adoption of a new continuous enrollment policy (via subcommittee consisting of Steve Radosevich, Martin Fisk, and Delores McNair), eliminated the requirement for minors on Masters degree programs, adopted a new policy on application of credits towards a second Master's degrees earned at OSU, and began work on an update of the program review guidelines, and worked with the Institutional Review Board to adopt a new policy regarding prior IRB approval of theses and dissertations including human subjects research.

The Council acted on all charges put forth at the beginning of the 2001/2002 academic year:

- Complete Zoology program review. (completed)
- Forward a recommendation regarding participation in awards selection as an item to be included in the Standing Rules as a regular set of duties performed by the Council. (no changes to the standing rules were recommended)
- Discuss recommendations of the Graduate Level Learning Task Force and report to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. (a report was made to the EC and a policy recommendation was made)
- Discuss issues raised regarding graduate program review procedures and policies. (a new set of review procedures was discussed and a preliminary set of guidelines will be discussed in AY 2002/2003)

Charges issued for the 2002/2003 Graduate Council are as follows:

- Complete the Community College Leadership Program (CCLP) review.
- Act on a proposal put forward by Maggie Niess regarding participation of graduate students who have completed all degree requirements except submission of the thesis or dissertation in commencement ceremonies.
- Follow up on the Physics program review to ensure that the Physics Department has in place a plan of action to ensure the health of their graduate program.

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