

Faculty Senate

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Graduate Council

Annual Report of the Graduate Council 2007-2008

To: Faculty Senate Executive Committee
 Date: July 30, 2008
 From: Tom McLain , Chair Graduate Council AY08
 RE: Graduate Council Annual Report for AY08

The Graduate Council (GC) met eleven times during Academic Year 2007-2008 with all members attending at least 65% of scheduled meetings and most well over 80%. In addition, members performed a number of duties outside of our meetings. No representative from the College of Engineering was appointed this year. The College of Veterinary Medicine was represented during Winter and Spring terms. No graduate student representative was appointed. Here is a summary of the activities and accomplishments of the Graduate Council during Academic Year 2008. Details may be found in the GC minutes posted on the Council website.

1. **Graduate Program Reviews:** Scheduled reviews and actions taken are as follows:
 - Graduate degree programs in Food Science and Technology were reviewed and the report of the Review Team was accepted by the GC.
 - Graduate degree programs in Biological and Ecological Engineering were scheduled to be reviewed, but the Review Team and Dean of the Graduate School judged that the departmental self-study was not acceptable and the site visit was postponed.
 - Graduate programs in the College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences were reviewed and the report of the Review Team was accepted by the GC.
 - Graduate programs in the School of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering were reviewed but the report of the Review Team was not available prior to the close of the year.
 - Graduate Programs in the Department of Public Health: A petition to defer review of the Masters of Public Health for a number of years was not approved and review of the PhD and MPH degrees was scheduled for 2009-2010.
 - English—GC accepted report of Spring 2007 review.
 - Pharmacy—GC accepted report of Spring 2007 review.
2. **Follow-up Graduate Program Reviews**, conducted three years after a major program review were conducted and reviewed as follows:
 - Biochemistry and Biophysics
 - Chemical Engineering
 - Computer Science & Electrical Engineering
 - Microbiology
 - Crop and Soil Science
 - Operations Research and Statistics
3. **Awards:** Subcommittees of Council members reviewed nominations and selected recipients of the following awards:
 - Oregon Lottery Scholarships
 - Bayley Graduate Fellowship
 - Yerex Graduate Fellowship
 - Herbert F. Frolander Outstanding GTA Award
 - Excellence in Graduate Mentoring Award
 - WAGS/UMI Distinguished Masters Thesis Award
 - CGS/UMI Outstanding Dissertation Award
4. **Review of internal OSU preproposals for national funding competitions:** Several funding programs limit the number of proposals that may be submitted by OSU. The GC reviewed and made

selections of internal pre-proposals that should be encouraged for submission:

- NSF—Graduate Teaching Fellows in K-12 Education: 3 preproposals, 1 selected.
- NSF—IGERT: 7 pre-proposals ranked

5. Policy-related Issues:

- Approved a new policy for admission of students with three-year baccalaureate degrees from universities in countries that are signatory to the Bologna Declaration.
- Recommended that the Graduate School actively discourage combining GC Program Reviews with either accreditation reviews or Federal Agency research reviews except in unusual situations.
- Approved a new IELTS/TOEFL equivalency table for use in graduate admissions.
- Approved a new policy on admission of students from India.
- Considered, but did not approve, changes to policy on remote participation by committee members in formal graduate program meetings.

6. Other business:

- GC reviewed and acted upon numerous Category I and II proposals
- GC proposed revisions to the Graduate Council Standing Rules
- Revised “Graduate Council Program Review Guidelines” to improve clarity, reflect new policies and add information needed on community engagement.
- Reviewed the comments from the external review of the Graduate School.

7. **Closing comments:** The success of the work of the Graduate Council is in large measure due to the commitment of the Council members. This is a very significant service obligation, often requiring many hours outside of meetings, and all members treated it with the respect and seriousness it demands. A second major factor is the strong working relationship between the Council and the Graduate School. It is essential that the Council work closely with the Dean of the Graduate School and her staff. However, I found that relationship is one of facilitation and not of influence and works very well. The Chair especially appreciates the excellent clerical and organizational support provided by the Graduate School.

I believe that one issue that future Councils will need to address is their role in strategic planning for the Graduate School and the University. The external reviewers of the Graduate School noted that graduate education is not identified as a priority in OSU’s strategic plan. I suggest that the Faculty Senate and future Councils seek to change that—and be proactive in partnering with the Graduate School to take new strategic leadership roles for graduate education at OSU in the future.

2007-2008 Graduate Council Membership

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|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Tom McLain '08, Chair | Forestry |
| Alix Gitelman '08 | Science |
| Rod Harter '08 | Health and Human Sciences |
| Tom Wolpert (v. Proebsting) '08 | Agricultural Sciences |
| Shawna Grosskopf '09 | Liberal Arts |
| Darlene Russ-Eft '09 | Education |
| Rick Colwell '10 | Oceanic & Atmospheric Sciences |
| Nancy King '10 (fall '07) | Business |
| Rene Reitsma (winter/spring '08) | Business |
| Vacant '10 | Engineering |
| Chrissa Kioussi '10 | Pharmacy |
| Kathy O'Reilly '10 | Veterinary Medicine |
| Student Member--Vacant | |

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