

**Graduate Council  
October 20, 2008  
226 University Hall  
Meeting Minutes**

**Graduate Council Members Present:**

Ana Azevedo, Jim Bartholomew, Ginny Bumgardner, Theresa Early, Michael Lairmore (by phone), Walter Lempert, Anne McCoy, Ruth Peterson, Jim Phelan, Lea Popielinski (for Jason Marion), Constantine Psimopoulos, John Sheridan, Harold Vaessin, Ingrid Werner

**Graduate School Staff Present:** Patrick Osmer, Ann Salimbene, Elliot Slotnick, Kathleen Wallace, Karen Mayer (recorder)

**Approval of Minutes**

- The minutes from the September 22, 2008, Graduate Council Meeting were approved with a word change in Discussion Item 6 (*derived* to *arrived*).

**A. Announcements**

- Jim Phelan has accepted the role of chair of the Council.

**B. Graduate Council Curriculum Committee Reports and Actions**

Theresa Early, Curriculum Committee liaison, explained the following proposals from the Curriculum Committee:

1. Proposal to change the requirements of the Masters of Occupational Therapy (MOT) program such that 12 credits of fieldwork must now be completed prior to the completion of the degree and not after the degree was conferred. This change will raise the number of credit hours required for the MOT from 04 to 106 credits.
2. Proposal to rename the graduate program (M.S. and Ph.D.) in the Department of Food Science and Technology from Food Science and Nutrition to Food Science and Technology
3. Proposal to create an Interdisciplinary Graduate Specialization in Second Language Studies
4. Proposal to extend the off-campus Master's of Social Work programming to the Franklin county Alcohol Drug and Mental Health (ADAMH) board
5. Proposal to change to course options in the Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Literacy Studies

- **Action: The proposals were approved with one alteration to proposal #3 to remove references to a 3.0 GPA requirement. Associate Dean Slotnick will relay the Council's observation about how diversity is being handled in proposal #4 to the Curriculum Committee. Council is concerned that this approach not become a model for on-campus programs.**

**C. Review Items:**

**1. Definition of Candidacy**

Dean Osmer presented a draft definition of candidacy to be added to the *Graduate School Handbook*. The proposed language describes the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary for a doctoral student to achieve candidacy. He also said that the doctoral program review revealed a

wide range in the time to candidacy across programs and that norms for time to candidacy should be established for all graduate programs.

The new definition of full time enrollment for post-candidacy students as 3 hours dominated the discussion of candidacy. Members raised the following concerns and observations:

- Student might be unable to take other courses that are not critical to degree but would enhance the student's education or research.
- Some departments have required courses such as dissertation workshops that cause the students to exceed 3 hours.
- Will some departments attempt to find ways to "speed" students through programs in order to save money?
- Has there been any thought to add residency requirements to the change in post-candidacy credits?
- Some graduate program chairs felt encumbered by the need to petition every case.
- Some programs offering "enhancement" courses, i.e. Statistics, are concerned that enrollment may decrease.

Dean Osmer explained that establishing 3 hours as full-time for post candidacy students was meant to alleviate financial burdens reported by some faculty and graduate programs. It is not meant to curtail enrollment in extra courses deemed appropriate for the students by their advisors. As long as the average number of hours that post-candidacy students in a department were taking was reasonable, the Graduate School is not asking the program to make any changes. Problems arose in situations such as students not enrolling for summer quarter and then registering for 18 hours of 999 in fall quarter in order to reduce tuition.

- **Dean Osmer requested suggestions of phrasing for candidacy definition and requirements be sent to Assistant Dean Kathy Wallace (Wallace.150) before the next meeting.**

## **2. Clarification and Purpose of candidacy examination**

Associate Dean Elliot Slotnick explained that different models of the candidacy exam exist among programs. There is a need for the Graduate School to outline what the general expectations are for candidacy exams. It is also critical that students are clear about the specific approach and time lines for exams in their programs.

Several members described their candidacy exams. Discussion focused on candidacy exams that follow a grant writing model and the reasoning for its use by their departments.

- **Dean Osmer asked the members to send descriptions of candidacy exam their procedures to Assistant Dean Ann Salimbene (Salimbene.1) to assist with the Graduate School's understanding of the differences among programs.**

## **3. Total hours for doctoral degree programs.**

The Graduate School is investigating what the minimum number of credits should be for a doctoral degree now that post-candidacy doctoral students are considered full-time at 3 credits. The Graduate School is consulting with Lee Walker to make sure that any new number does not inadvertently affect subsidy. Communications to graduate students from the Graduate School will be modified to reflect the likely reduction in total number of credit hours.

#### D. Introductory Discussion Items

##### 1. Professional Development programming at the Graduate School

Assistant Dean Kathy Wallace outlined existing programs and asked the Council to provide feedback on what the Graduate School should be doing to support professional development for graduate students.

##### 2. Electronic submission of Master's theses

Associate Dean Elliot Slotnick asked the Council if we could implement this winter quarter with the condition that students can elect for non-distribution.

➤ **Council agreed**

##### 3. Dual Degree Programs

Associate Dean Elliot Slotnick told the Council that currently the only dual degree offered is a Ph.D. and Master's and asked the group if the rules should be changed to allow other combinations.

➤ **Council members agreed that it should be considered and Associate Dean Slotnick will submit a draft proposal.**

##### 4. Presidential Fellowship

Dean Osmer/Associate Dean Slotnick explained that the Presidential Fellowship are for students in the final year of dissertation writing. Currently, one of the requirements is that they must be on-campus to be eligible. This is an historical requirement originating from the need for the student to be in contact with their advisor. In this era of the internet and cell phones, the Graduate School requested a loosening of this requirement.

➤ **Members voted to make the change. The change is effective immediately. Associate Dean Slotnick will draft a change in the wording of the rules.**

#### E. Other

A discussion about fellowships and timing of the offers to use in recruitment of students was tabled since it was 5 p.m.

**Adjourned at 5 p.m.**