

**Graduate Council  
November 24, 2008  
226 University Hall  
Meeting Minutes**

**Graduate Council Members Present:**

Jim Bartholomew, Ginny Bumgardner, Teresa Early, Mike Lairmore, Rattan Lal, Walter Lempert, Anne McCoy, Ruth Peterson, Jim Phelan, Constantine Psimopoulos, Harald Vaessin,

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

**Approval of Minutes**

- The minutes from the October 20, 2008, Graduate Council meeting were approved as submitted.

**A. Announcements**

- The task forces on environmental and life sciences are continuing their work to inventory existing programs and identify best practices at Ohio State.
- Pat Osmer has been elected for a three-year term as a member of the Board of Directors for the Council of Graduate Schools.

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

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

1. Proposal to institute a direct-to Ph.D. track as a third option in the Department of Women's Studies (M.A., Ph.D., direct-to-Ph.D.).  
— **The proposal was approved.**
2. Proposal to create a Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Global Health (GISGH) that clarifies coursework for graduate and professional students.  
— **The proposal was approved.**
3. Proposal to deactivate the Soil Science Graduate Program and create a specialization track in the School of Environment and Natural Resources.  
— **Two requests were made for additional supporting information: 1) a statement of support from the Dean of the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and 2) confirmation that the affected students have been asked for feedback and have been apprised of the change. The proposal may be reviewed again at the December 8 Graduate Council meeting if the documents are obtained in time.**
4. Proposal to change core courses for the Master of Accounting degree.  
— **The proposal was approved.**

5. Proposal to develop a Master's Degree Program in Latin American Studies.  
— **The proposal was approved and will be forwarded to the Council on Academic Affairs for further processing.**

### **C. Review Items:**

#### **1. College allocation for Graduate School University Fellowship competition**

Associate Dean Elliot Slotnick explained a chart showing the headcounts for the University Fellowship competition for the years 2004-2008 for each of the colleges. The chart showed the number of student awards, percentage of awards, acceptance, and percentage of acceptance, totals, and percentages. The chart will be used in assessing the number of university fellowships that will be decentralized and given to colleges for awards to students in their own colleges.

Several Council members expressed concern about the number of fellowships being allocated to tagged degree programs, but it was felt that this issue should be taken up at a later time.

#### **2. Definition of candidacy; purpose and structure of candidacy examinations**

Associate Dean Elliot Slotnick described the essential aspects of procedures and guidelines for the Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology (MDCB) program candidacy examination as provided in a MCDB document.

Council members discussed the essential portions of the exam. Concern was expressed about how to accommodate examination differences amongst various disciplines.

### **D. For introductory discussion:**

#### **1. Misconception regarding purpose of registering in 999 for liability issues**

The Graduate School has learned that there are departments that have had a long-standing requirement that all graduate students must register every quarter for at least one credit hour of 999 to ensure that the university has liability coverage and will not be held responsible for damages resulting from any student injured in a research laboratory. The Graduate School has discussed this situation with Human Resources and has been assured that coverage for Graduate Associates (GAs) is not tied to course registration. GAs on appointment are covered under Worker's Compensation for injuries that occur in the scope of their employment.

#### **2. Professional development programming in the Graduate School**

Assistant Dean Kathleen Wallace asked Council for feedback about how the Graduate School should best take up professional development topics not already being covered elsewhere on campus. There was discussion of a need for doctoral students to receive some training about faculty responsibilities beyond teaching and research; however, there was no definitive conclusion on how to proceed ahead with professional development at this time.

#### **3. Elapsed candidacy and 3 credit hour policy**

Assistant Dean Ann Salimbene presented a question about how to handle students who fall out of candidacy and wish to register for the following quarter.

- **Council agreed that students may continue to be considered a candidate for the following quarter and register for three credit hours. However, the Graduate School must receive a plan from the program detailing when the student will take the supplemental exam and complete the degree requirements. If a plan for degree completion is not in place by the following quarter, the Graduate School will reexamine the student's candidacy and enrollment status.**

**E. Other**

There were no other topics.

**The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.**