

**Graduate Academic Council
2005 – 2006**

Minutes of the Council meeting of February 2, 2006

Approved by the Council on March 3, 2006

In attendance: F. Bolton (staff), G. Burke, J. Bartow (staff), L. Kranich, L.-A. McNutt, M. Pryse, M. Rodriguez (Chair), S. Chinnam, & S. Maloney

Guests: R. Geer & R. Matyi, College of NanoScale Science & Engineering (CNSE)
R. Fortune, School of Social Welfare

GAC members unable to attend: D. Byrd, E. Redkey, O. Ongiti, S. Friedman & S. Levine

Prior to the start of the meeting, Jon Bartow shared the composite of members' schedules regarding availability for future Spring 2006 meetings and a calendar marked with targeted meeting weeks. It was agreed that he would poll members regarding best fit options in the target weeks, suggesting days/times as indicated within the composite as likely best.

1. Minutes of the GAC meeting of 12/2/05 were considered and approved without amendment (6-0-0).
2. Minutes of the GAC meeting of 12/12/05 were considered and approved without amendment (6-0-0).
3. Dean's Report – M. Pryse
 - Although noting she had no formal report, Dean Pryse did take the opportunity to highlight and briefly discuss the need for a new graduate student support awards funding allocation model. She also mentioned problems with GA/TA extra service requests, noting that GA/TA awards are intended to support one's full-time attention to the academic program of enrollment. Extra service requests sometime jeopardize such commitments.
4. Chair's Report – M. Rodriguez
 - Professor Rodriguez reported back to the Council regarding the President's decision not to approve the Senate bill proposing a change to the academic calendar regarding religious holidays. The President has indicated he seeks the dialogue on the topic to continue with special attention being paid to student input.
5. CNSE Curriculum Proposal

In response to the GAC's inquiry to the College of Arts & Sciences (CAS) regarding any perceived impact on its programs due to the proposed changes in the CNSE programs, the CAS Dean consulted with appropriate departments and conveyed back a message of overall non-objection. The GAC query to CAS Dean Wick-Pelletier, her response, and some additional comments from Prof. Geer of CNSE were distributed to Council members in advance of the meeting.

Profs. Rodriguez and Kranich inquired about transfer credit considerations. Prof. Geer indicated that the awarding of transfer credit is routine and individually based on analysis of appropriate academic work presented for such purposes. Prof. Kranich inquired further if some sort of transfer equivalency table might be helpful. Prof. Geer indicated that since the analysis is always to be individually based and may include consideration of lab work and publications, an equivalency table is not desirable.

In response to an inquiry from Prof. McNutt about potential cross-listing of courses, Prof. Geer explained that the proposed move to a modular component structure within the core will allow for

more adaptability to individual students' preparation. The existing Physics and Chemistry alternate core course sequences would be inadequate for this purpose.

Prof. Rodriguez indicated that her understanding from informal communication with Dean Wick-Pelletier on this topic was that while Dean Wick-Pelletier does not object to the proposal, she does seek to promote continued student interactions. Prof. Geer indicated that CNSE has similar interest and, in fact, are supporting Chemistry, Physics and Biology students in CNSE labs at this time.

A motion was made and seconded to re-approve the CNSE Curriculum Proposal in its amended 12/14/05 form and return it to the Senate for action, noting that impact on other units has been considered and resolved. The motion was approved by Council vote (6-0-1).

6. Standards for Social Work Education

The Senate bill to approve the Standards for Social Work Education was tabled by the Senate, with the bill returned to the GAC and also forwarded to the Governance Council for additional consideration.

Prof. McNutt explained her motion to table at the Senate was based on concerns about setting decentralization precedent and on concerns about specifics regarding votes within SSW to potentially dismiss a student.

Social Welfare Associate Dean R. Fortune highlighted four issues pertaining to the proposed Standards:

- a. Scope – “At all times” was intended to mean when in a professional role only; OK to delete this phrase.
- b. Substance – Drawn from national & State standards.
- c. Due Process – Legal Counsel advises this is not unfair to student process-wise. She would be happy to change the voting quorum to include teaching faculty.
- d. Autonomy – Not sure what changes people feel are desirable.

Dean Fortune indicated that she and/or the School are not necessarily wedded to the proposed procedures but they are to the standards.

Prof. Rodriguez suggested the Council needed to decide what it wanted to do procedurally.

Prof. McNutt moved to return the Proposal to the School with recommended changes – revise the voting quorum; strike the words “or GAC” on page 8. S. Maloney seconded the motion.

Prof. Rodriguez inquired as to whether the Proposal should be forwarded to a joint sub-committee (with members from the Governance Council), as suggested by the Senate Chair.

Prof. Kranich expressed some continuing discomfort with other aspects of the Proposal, as he would like to see it more performance based.

The Council voted on the motion to return the Proposal to the School with suggestions/concerns noted. The motion passed (5-0-0).

END OF GAC 2/2/06 MINUTES