

**Graduate Academic Council**  
**2008 – 2009**

Minutes of the Council meeting of March 30, 2009  
Approved by the Council on May 11, 2009

In attendance: J. Bartow (staff), F. Bolton (staff), T. Clyman,  
S. Friedman, L. Kranich (Chair), J. McLaughlin,  
A. Pomerantz, M. Pryse, K. Reinhold, B. Shaw, C. Smith

Unable to attend: J. Baronner (staff), G. Denbeaux, M. Earleywine, W. Meredith

1. Minutes from the GAC meeting of 3/2/09.

Chair Kranich indicated, for information purposes, that his 3/13/09 comments to the Senate Executive Committee about GA/TA resources were not made on behalf of GAC, as responses to his email inquiry on the topic were incomplete from GAC membership.

Dean Pryse expressed concern about the written GAC report provided to the Senate at its 2/9/09 meeting, in that it contained inaccurate information (subsequently corrected by follow-up report) and information not discussed at the Council meeting of which the report pertained to. Chair Kranich noted transmittal of the corrected information (to Senate and GAC members) and his perspective that the additional comments offered to the Senate in the 2/9/09 GAC report were simply statements of fact regarding the Senate Charter. Dean Pryse suggested and requested that GAC reports to the Senate pertain to business as conducted at GAC meetings only. Chair Kranich indicated he could not commit to making such limited reports.

The draft minutes from the GAC meeting of 3/2/09 with approved unanimously (9-0-0) without amendment.

2. Dean's Report – M. Pryse

- Dean Pryse summarized information from “Ph.D. Admissions Shrinkage,” an Inside Higher Education article (3/30/09) regarding shrinking doctoral education programs/admissions due to resource constraints. The article will be distributed to Council members.
- The Dean discussed the need for anticipated conversation/consultation with governance leaders about graduate program review, at least at the doctoral level, and how the process worked when most recently conducted during 1997 & 1998. She indicated she will advocate for transparency in the upcoming process.
- Upon inquiry, the Dean commented about doctoral funding issues this year, with comments looking back on historical practice and looking forward in light of a multiple year budget problem.

- Jon Bartow reported on a College of Arts & Sciences graduate course (CAS 595 – Science Research) being approved that is not housed in a specific academic department, as being rather ironic given recent Senate Charter action to limit GAC authority on courses outside departments.
- Chair Kranich noted an obligation, per the Senate Charter, for GAC to review reports on graduate program assessments that come from the Assessment Council and/or other such reports.

3. Chair's Report – L. Kranich

- The Senate has approved the bills endorsed by the Council: (1) Change to BA/MA policy, (2) Second bachelor's degree policy and (3) Discontinuance of the Urban Education Certificate program. Pending for Senate consideration is the bill proposing suspension of MA Public Affairs & Policy admissions.
- The Senate Executive Committee has communicated to the President and/or Provost regarding (1) consultation about assessment mechanisms, (2) the need for programs to have management flexibility on GA/TA resources and (3) consideration of across-the-board percentage cuts for GA/TA resources for the upcoming academic year.

4. Committee on Admissions & Academic Standing Report

Committee Chair Clyman summarized the specific details of petition 0809-03, with action as recommended in the written report, appended to the end of these minutes. After a period of brief discussion, the Council voted 8-0-1 (abstention with cause) to accept the report and recommendation and in doing so approve the departmental/student petition.

5. Committee on Curriculum & Instruction Report

Committee Chair Friedman reviewed the details of the 3/23/09 CC&I report, appended to the end of these minutes. After a period of brief discussion, the Council voted 9-0-0 to accept the report and recommendations and in doing so approve the two action items contained therein.

END OF GAC 3/30/2009 MINUTES

.....