

UNIVERSITY SENATE  
UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY  
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Introduced by: Governance Council

Date: December 15, 2008

**Clarifying Amendment on "Graduate Courses" (Section X.4.6)**

IT IS HEREBY PROPOSED THAT THE FOLLOWING BE ADOPTED:

1. That the proposed clarifying amendment of the *University Senate Charter*, as highlighted in boldface on the following page, be adopted.
2. That this amendment go into effect immediately upon approval.
3. That this amendment be forwarded to the President for approval.

**Rationale:**

The Governance Council considered a proposal from the Graduate Academic Council for an amendment to the Senate Charter that would permit "University-wide" graduate courses to be offered by entities other than the schools and colleges, subject to final approval by GAC. After lengthy and productive discussion, GOV reached a strong consensus that Article X.4.6.2 in the *Senate Charter* ("New graduate courses and changes to existing graduate courses receive final approval from the schools and colleges...") accurately reflects that graduate courses appropriately are and shall remain the responsibility of a school or college, or a combination of two or more of those academic units in the case of cross listed and some interdisciplinary courses.

From this perspective, there couldn't be any "University wide" courses that are not under the responsibility and continuing control of at least one school or college. Interdisciplinary approaches can still be initiated under the aegis of an existing school or college and, as in the past, in time can evolve into a full-fledged program. If such offerings evolve into a new school or college and that entity and its academic program(s) have secured the requisite approval of GAC, UPC, the University Senate, the President and as necessary SUNY and SED, the new school or college of course would then have "final approval" for creating or revising its courses, subject to notification and GAC review as per Article X.4.6.2.

Consequently, GOV does not consider an amendment along the lines proposed by GAC to be either necessary or desirable. On the other hand, GOV decided to propose an amendment to X.4.6.2 that would explicitly spell out the understanding summarized above.

## PROPOSED *SENATE CHARTER* AMENDMENT 0809-02

### X.4. GRADUATE ACADEMIC COUNCIL

X.4.3. The Council shall have the responsibility for the conduct of the University's graduate educational program.

X.4.4. The Council as a whole shall review all proposals for new graduate programs. It shall submit recommended program approvals to the University Senate for consideration.

X.4.5. The Council as a whole shall review proposals that would affect the continuation of graduate programs

X.4.5.1. It shall consider assessment reports pertaining to graduate programs including those from the Council on Academic Assessment and shall recommend changes it deems desirable.

X.4.5.2. After due consideration, the Council may bring a recommendation to suspend or discontinue of a program to the Senate.

X.4.6. The Council, through its Committee on Curriculum and Instruction, shall have responsibility for the graduate academic curriculum. The committee shall have no more than eight members and shall include at least five Teaching Faculty, at least two of whom are on the Council.

X.4.6.1. The committee shall consider all revisions to existing graduate degree programs and shall submit all recommended changes to the Council for final approval.

X.4.6.2. New graduate courses and changes to existing graduate courses receive final approval from the schools and colleges, subject to appropriate notification, but the Graduate Academic Council shall have the power to review new courses and changes to existing courses and require reconsideration by the schools and colleges. Notification should be made to the Graduate Academic Council, to the Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies, the Office of the Vice President or Dean of the affected college or school, and to all other interested parties. [Section X. 4.6.2 revised by amendment 5/2/05]

**X.4.6.2.1. Courses offered at the graduate level must be proposed by the faculty of a school or college. An interdisciplinary or cross-listed graduate course may be proposed by more than one school or college.**

**X.4.6.2.2 A graduate course must remain the responsibility of at least one school or college during the course's lifetime.**