

**MINUTES**  
**The Graduate Council**  
October 18, 1995  
Leona Tyler Conference Room, Chapman Hall

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**Members Present:** Scott DeLancey, Judith Grosenick, Robert O'Brien, Catherine Roach (master's student representative), David Schuman (ex officio Law School), Richard Sundt, Mark Tveskov (doctoral student representative), Steadman Upham (ex officio), Claire Wachter, Virpi Zuck

Members Absent: Marian Friestad, Van Kolpin, James Lemert

Staff in Attendance: Jiffin Arboleda, Toby Deemer, Maggie Morris

There being as yet no elected Council officers for 1995-96, the meeting was called to order by Dean Upham. Members introduced themselves and identified their departmental affiliation.

**Announcements**

- Finished copies of the *Guidelines for Good Practice in Graduate Education* were distributed. Dean Upham noted that he had used material from the document in a presentation at the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) dean's workshop over the summer. It was very well received, and is now intended to serve as the lead article in the next *CGS Communicator*, a publication sent to all graduate schools by the CGS.
- Dean Upham summarized recent actions with respect to graduate tuition increases. In response to the 10% resident and 14% nonresident increases in current year tuition and projected equivalent increases in 1996-97, the OSSHE graduate deans secured from the Chancellor's Office special allocations to mitigate the effect on those categories of students who will be most affected. The University's allocation of \$400,000 for this year (with an anticipated \$450,000 in 1996-97) was directed first toward supplementing the tuition portion of existing training grants. Next in priority were students identified from the financial aid system.
- Enrollment figures for Fall 1995 are not yet final; firm comparisons with other years will be available after the fourth week statistics are confirmed. A preliminary comparison shows slight movement within categories, but little change overall. Law students have increased markedly, however.
- Concern at the national level for the apparent overproduction of Ph.D.s has been sparked by recent studies (e.g., COSEPUP, Massey and Goldman). The current issue of *Science* has a related article which will be distributed to Council members at the next meeting. Regardless of the debate over methodology in these studies, two issues must be addressed: the number of doctoral degrees being granted and the kind of training that is being offered. It is likely that perceptions of overproduction of Ph.D.s will lead policy makers and federal agencies to scale back funding for graduate training.
- In response to both the national concerns for graduate education and the issues brought to the attention of OSSHE by the State System's graduate deans, an OSSHE Task Force on Graduate Education has been created. It will be chaired by a university president, and members will include the graduate deans, State Board members, and private citizens. Its goal will be to look

at graduate education a decade into the future and to position the System's institutions appropriately. It was noted also that OSSHE-wide restructuring will be on the agenda for the November Board meeting.

- Copies of memoranda of understanding (MoU's) for completed program reviews were distributed along with copies of the program review handbook. Additional MoU's will be provided as they become available.
- Copies of a Graduate School/Research Office planning document were distributed. The document links to an institution-wide planning effort initiated by President Frohnmayer and identifies goals and tactics that will govern the major activities during the coming year of the combined Graduate School and research enterprise.

### **Election of Officers**

Because of the number and complexity of demands on the Council this coming year, and because two individuals are willing to serve in leadership roles, it was proposed and agreed that Co-Chairs be elected instead of the usual Chair and Vice Chair. Scott DeLancey and Marian Friestad were elected as Co-Chairs of the Graduate Council for 1995-96. Richard Sundt was re-elected as Secretary.

S. DeLancey assumed the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

### **Committee Assignments**

#### *Program review Committee:*

Architecture – Van Kolpin  
Art History – Judith Grosenick  
Comparative Literature – Scott DeLancey  
English – Robert O'Brien  
Folklore – Virpi Zuck

#### *Scholarship/Fellowship Committee:*

Judith Grosenick  
Claire Wachter  
Catherine Roach

#### *Grievance Committee:*

Two council members from the sciences who will be selected in the November election to replace R. Haydock and K. Cashman who are on leave this year. Available to assist, if needed in the interim:

Marian Friestad  
Claire Wachter  
Robert O'Brien  
Scott DeLancey  
David Schuman

## **Old Business**

### Distance Education Policy and Residency Requirements

Dean Upham circulated copies of the policy and proposed text for the University Undergraduate and Graduate Bulletin modified to reflect the concerns expressed at the spring meeting devoted to this topic. The changes identify all distance education credit as transferred credit subject to the limitations that already exist for transferred credit. There is no specific exclusion of what have previously been called correspondence courses because it becomes difficult to devise a definition of "correspondence" that excludes e-mail communication, which is considered acceptable and desirable. Departments have the responsibility of deciding what kind of transferred courses they are willing to accept. The revision of the policy section stipulates that new master's programs to be delivered through distance education technology receive prior approval of Council.

The revised policy and catalog statement were approved unanimously by the Council, with the stipulation that the catalog statement be reworded to indicate that the statement of the policy will be found in the Graduate School, not elsewhere in the catalog.

### Bioanthropology Proposal

Dean Upham reported that the proposal for a new joint campus graduate major in bioanthropology has been withdrawn. Instead, the new program is being run as a new specialization under existing major and degree structures.

## **New Business**

### Joint Campus Program in Environmental Science, Studies & Policy (ESSP)

Although no action was required at the meeting, copies of the ESSP joint campus program proposal were circulated. It was noted that this was a faculty-driven initiative to facilitate the movement of students and faculty among existing complementary state system programs in ESSP. If this grass-roots effort is approved, it is the intention of the graduate deans to request initial funding from OSSHE; it fits all models for successful joint campus programs and enjoys the distinction of having arisen from an interest base at the institutions rather than as a top-down mandate.

### Proposed Ph.D. Program in Environmental Science, Studies, and Policy (ESSP)

Council was given copies of the proposal for a new Ph.D. program in ESSP which will build on the strength of the existing Environmental Studies master's program and will also complement the newly-created undergraduate major.

After brief discussion, it was determined that Richard Gale be invited to the next Council meeting to answer questions about the proposals. Specifically, he might address such issues as the anticipated need for Ph.D.'s in environmental science, especially with respect to the kind of credential that is preferred by hiring institutions. Are degrees in a specific science, e.g., biology, more competitive? If the ESSP degree is in demand, that fact should be stressed in the proposal; it is something the OSSHE Board will want to know. Similarly, it would be helpful to know the number of comparable programs elsewhere in the country. With whom would our students compete in the job market for academic positions and in industry?

### University Requirements for Master's Degrees

A preliminary report on a research project being conducted in the Graduate School was distributed. It examines such issues as the effect on 45-credit master's programs of the recent credit-hour conversion, and the number of 600-level courses required in various master's programs. An in-depth report will be made at the next Council meeting.

### Dissertations and Language Translations

A memorandum from the Director of the Comparative Literature program was distributed as an introduction to a topic that will be discussed at a later meeting. Specifically, it addresses circumstances under which it is inappropriate to require translations for all foreign language passages contained in a dissertation. Council also considered revisiting existing policies with regard to dissertations written other languages.

### Library Resources & Reductions in Publications

R. Sundt expressed his concern for the budget-setting decisions that govern the number and kinds of resources purchased by the University Libraries, specifically the Allied Arts and Architecture Library. He perceives decisions to reduce the number of periodicals and print documents as a threat to many aspects of fundamental research. He questions the decision-making process and the apparent lack of faculty consultation surrounding the setting of the Library budget.

Following discussion, it was agreed that Council should address these questions in a letter to George Shipman as Director of Libraries. Mr. Shipman might also be invited to attend a discussion of the topic at a future meeting. At the request of the Council, Dean Upham will draft the letter with input from R. Sundt.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Sundt, Secretary

XC: President  
Vice Presidents  
Vice Provosts  
Academic Deans