

MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE FACULTY
NOVEMBER 30, 2009

The regularly scheduled fall semester Graduate Faculty meeting was called to order by President Joe Newkirk at 3:30 pm on Monday, November 30 in the Missouri Ozark Room of the Havener Center.

Present: Newkirk (President), Fitch (Secretary), Neogi, DuBroff, Ludlow, McMillin, Erickson, Huebner, Bieniek, Awuah-Offei, Stephenson, Krishnamurthy (OSP), Cox (Grad Office) Thorpe (Registrar's office), Cree (Registrar's office)

1. Approval of Minutes – approved unanimously

2. Commencement list approval – The list of graduate degree and graduate certificate recipients was amended (remove Hallmark, Kotikalapudi, Murali Narasimhan, Pattnaik, Yadav, add Bok) and the amended list was approved unanimously.

3. Stipend X – Prof. Newkirk noted there was no change to Stipend X last year. Motion to raise Stipend X by 3%. (POI current Stipend X = \$3,700.00 per month at 100% FTE). 14 for, 2 abstentions. Motion passed.

4. Stipend X format – Discussion occurred that Stipend X might be used as a guideline rather than as setting min/max values. Current Policy Memo II12-1 states “Salary levels will be 25-75% of Stipend X, respectively.” for GTA & GRA appointments. It was noted that 50% FTE is a maximum for international students and is approximately ‘break-even’ for giving an I-20. Discussion noted that the percentage appointment can be varied currently, but such percentage changes may result in unanticipated withholding/tax consequences. There was also discussion of differences in funds available amongst departments and amongst faculty. A straw poll supported a tiered structure with a vote of 12 for, 2 abstentions. The Chair referred this issue, to look at a tiered Stipend X structure, to the Graduate Council.

5. “Consider whether the existing rules regarding GPA calculation for graduation should be strictly enforced to include S&T coursework or relaxed to consider all coursework” Prof. McMillin initiated discussion that GPA is calculated now as the cumulative GPA including transfer coursework, rather than the catalog requirement to calculate both cumulative and S&T coursework, each of which must meet a minimum GPA. It was noted that some departments set their own standards, e.g. CE allows only one C. The Registrar can fix the degree audits to show campus GPA, but current graduate degree audits do not show campus GPA. It was noted that transfer courses must have a B or better to be accepted. Motion to instruct graduate affairs office to follow rule as written in the catalog. Seconded. Discussion: potential issue that currently ‘ok’ students will become ‘low GPA’. It was noted that the Vice Provost has authority to waiver this rule. Another issue raised is that 200-level classes are deemed graduate credit; students are not currently allowed to exclude remedial 200-level classes from the graduate GPA. Rhetorically asked: If grad students taking remedial classes are getting C’s, should they be allowed to remain? Move to table and refer to Graduate Council approved 6 for to 4 against; motion tabled.

6. Wording of Graduate Catalog on “correspondence and extension courses” for PhD programs. The graduate catalog reads under ‘Subjects of Study’, third paragraph (page 24 of current grad catalog): “Correspondence and extension courses do not form part of the program for the Ph.D. degree, except as they constitute a part of a master’s program. Correspondence and extension courses beyond those allowed for a master’s degree may not be applied to a doctoral degree program.” Distance courses offered by S&T were raised as the concern in regards this wording. Currently distance courses offered by S&T are

not considered as correspondence or extension. Suggestions were raised to re-write the paragraph, or handle on case-by-case basis, or to note that S&T courses (approved by faculty senate and given a S&T course number) are not correspondence or extension. Motion: Graduate faculty recognizes Missouri S&T distance classes approved by the faculty senate and given a course number may be applied to the doctoral degree program. 9 for and 1 abstain.

7. Dual enrollment – Both the undergrad catalog (p. 14) and graduate catalog (p. 15) now specify “may apply for dual enrollment as both an undergraduate and a graduate student for the second semester of their senior year.” A suggestion was made to change this to 112 credit hours. Much discussion ensued, with no motion made. Issue was referred to the Graduate Council.

8. New business – A discussion was held on the meaning of % FTE; is 50% FTE = 20 hours of work on thesis? General opinion that graduate student time includes class time (490 = time on task). For GTAs the issue is defining amount of work as opposed to hours required. Some departments have measured based on time sheets to adjust FTE appointments for classes.

The meeting adjourned at 4:54 pm.