

Minutes  
Winthrop University Graduate Faculty Assembly  
February 15, 2002

I. Call to order from Prof. Jo Koster (English).

II. Approval of Minutes from the November 9, 2001, meeting (special thanks to Bill Rogers and Janice Chism for filling in for the chair and the secretary at that meeting).

III. Remarks from Professor Koster

Professor Koster noted that the changes in curriculum and salary discussed at the Faculty Conference would have an impact on what we do as graduate faculty

IV. Remarks from Dr. Melford Wilson, Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Dr. Wilson had no remarks.

IV. Remarks from Dr. Wilhelmenia Rembert, Associate Vice President for Graduate Studies.

Dr. Rembert updated the Assembly on the proposed policy on graduate assistantship performance. It is being considered by the graduate divisions, and has gone through first readings, including in Graduate Council. It is also being considered by the Human Resources office and the General Counsel. When these processes have been completed, the revised proposal will be returned to Graduate Council for action.

She also urged departments to let the Graduate Office know as quickly as possible about catalog changes. For changes in curriculum to be included in the new catalog, they must be approved by the last Graduate Council meeting on March 29, 2002.

V. Report from the Graduate Council by Professor Bill Rogers (Biology), Chair of the Graduate Council

Two new courses in the College of Education were approved unanimously.

The Graduate Council is continuing to discuss revisions to the Instructions for Preparation of a Thesis, and Professor Rogers requested anyone who has concerns to express them either to him or to other members of the council.

At its January 25 meeting the Graduate Council also discussed the graduate assistant performance requirements that Dr. Rembert had proposed, as well as a proposal by Dr. Roger Baumgarte, Director of the International Center, regarding non-degree admission of international students. The latter proposal would be further considered at the next Graduate Council meeting, scheduled for February 22.

## VI. Old Business

Professor Koster said that, concerning the issue of parking for graduate assistants, she had talked to Frank Zebedis, the Director of Public Safety, about reserving parking for them on the new proposed parking deck.

## VII. New business.

Professor Koster raised concerns the faculty members had expressed to her about the impact of the possible general education reforms on graduate programs, namely, how would possible reduced credit hour production affect departments' ability to offer graduate programs. In addition, graduate assistantships are often funded by employing our graduate students as laboratory assistants and in-class assistants. How would these positions be affected? She said that from what she could gather, including some talks with Dean Moore, there would have to be real massive changes in enrollment for graduate programs to be effected. She, suggested, in addition, that another concern the Graduate Faculty might consider might be what sort of preparation we think our graduate students should have had as undergraduates.

Dean Moore confirmed that he had never thought that graduate programs depended on large undergraduate enrollments, and that, indeed, lower undergraduate demand could positively affect some departments' ability to offer graduate courses. Dr. Wilson agreed that impact on graduate programs would be minimal.

As a second point of new business, Professor Koster noted that a discussion of the faculty salary study completed by Professors Dimaculangan and Rogers and of faculty salary equity issues in general had been planned, but given the announcement made at Faculty Conference about President DiGiorgio's salary initiative, this did not seem so important.

Professor Dwight Dimaculangan (Biology) proposed that we should start raising salaries for graduate assistants, which have seen no change in fifteen or even twenty years. He made a motion suggesting that a small diversion of the money in the president's proposal be made for this purpose. His motion was seconded by Professor Bill Rogers.

Dr. Wilson agreed that there was no doubt graduate assistants are not paid enough, but in the past, when other issues were raised in conjunction with it, moves toward faculty salary increases lost momentum. He suggested if the faculty 'sang with one song,' they would get much farther on the pay issue.

Dean Moore agreed with Dr. Wilson. He suggested putting the graduate assistant salary issue off until the faculty salary proposals were considered at the next Board of Trustees meeting.

Professor Dimaculangan withdrew his motion, but then withdrew his withdrawal in favor of tabling the motion for future consideration. Professor Rogers seconded the motion to table.

Professor Rembert affirmed that the question of graduate student compensation had been on the radar screen quite often, but had never had much momentum. She agreed that it should be put back on the screen, but not until after the issues concerning faculty pay had been clarified. She suggested putting it on the agenda for next year.

The motion to table the Professor Dimaculangan's original motion was approved.

Professor Don Rogers, the Chair of Graduate Directors, said that this issue was also on the graduate directors' radar screen.

Professor Sue Peck (Education) made a motion asking that the Graduate Office pursue the possibility of working with the Winthrop Foundation to develop a special fund dedicated to increasing graduate student stipends. The motion was seconded and approved.

Referring back to the general issue of salary improvement, Professor Mel Goldstein (Psychology) expressed the desire that note would be taken of differences within some departments, in which aggregate data hid large differences between professionally and academically oriented faculty.

Doctor Wilson said that he said seen no data, including the CUPA data, that broke pay rates down within departments.

Professor Koster thanked everyone for this input on this matter.

VIII. There were no announcements. Professor Koster commented on the announcement at Faculty Conference that there would be a separate graduate student graduation ceremony this year, and hoped that everyone would show up at that ceremony on May 2.

IX. A motion to adjourn was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Dave Pretty, Secretary.