

Minutes  
Winthrop University Graduate Faculty Assembly  
March 22, 2002

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

II. Approval of Minutes from the February 15, 2002, meeting. Corrections were made to change “Cooper” to CUPA, and Dr. Melford Wilson’s title to “Vice President for Academic Affairs.”

III. Remarks from Professor Koster

Professor Koster reminded everyone that deadlines were coming up for making changes to the graduate catalog, and for graduate exams and theses to be completed in time for May graduation.

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

Dr. Rembert reminded the assembly that the last Graduate Council meeting would take place on March 29. For departments to have curriculum changes included in the upcoming revised catalog, they would have to be approved at that meeting.

Drafts for the 2002–2004 Graduate Catalog were to be in hands of graduate directors by April 1, and the Graduate School would greatly appreciate a two-week turnaround period for corrections and other changes.

The Graduate School is now accepting nominations for graduate assistantships. This year the necessary forms are available online. Sharon Johnson has details if there are questions.

Planning is underway for the Graduate School graduation ceremony on May 2. It will begin at 7 p.m., and students should arrive by 6:15 p.m.

If faculty know of any students who have areas of research that are related to the Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Professional Development, Dr. Rembert urged faculty to have them talk to either herself or Dr. Elsbeth Brown about resources that may be available for them.

Also, if either students or faculty had an interest, she wanted them to know that Winthrop was hosting an Early Childhood Hispanic/Latino Summit on April 5.

Gloria Rodríguez of Avance, an early childhood care/education program in San Antonio, would give a luncheon talk. While the summit would be by invitation only, she wanted those who might have an interest to let her know so that they might be able to attend the luncheon and hear Ms. Rodríguez.

Concerning Dr. Sue Peck's suggestion at the previous assembly that the Winthrop Foundation create a special fund to supplement graduate student stipends, Dr. Rembert told the assembly that she had talked to Kelli Morris in the foundation office, and that she had been told that the issue was on their radar screen. One limiting factor, however, is that graduate alumni do not tend to give a great deal of money, and thus raising funds would depend more on institutional donors.

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

Professor Rogers reported that at its February 22 meeting the Graduate Council approved all curriculum items presented. The Graduate Faculty Assembly approved one item, a modification of the M.S. requirements in Human Nutrition, unanimously.

One nomination to the graduate faculty was approved, that of Dr. Frank Pullano (Mathematics).

The Graduate Council received an update on the Graduate Student Performance Requirements policy initiated by Dr. Rembert's office. Since the policy draft has not yet cleared the General Counsel's office, it will be on the agenda for the next Graduate Council meeting.

The council approved the proposal by the Director of the International Center, Dr. Roger Baumgarte (Psychology), to delete a statement in the catalog barring international students from attaining nondegree status. This change was made possible by apparent changes in INS policy.

The Graduate Council initiated a restructuring of pages 34–39 of the graduate catalog for purposes of clarification. Changes will be considered at the next meeting.

The Council was continuing to consider changes to the Instructions for Preparation of a Thesis. Professor Rogers asked that anyone with proposals for changes get those to him as quickly as possible.

The Graduate Council approved two petitions from graduate students. Professor Rogers reminded the assembly that the next meeting would take place on March 29.

Professor Jim Johnson (Biology) asked if items would be included in the catalog if they were submitted to the Graduate Council by the following Friday (March 29). Dr. Rembert responded in the affirmative.

#### VI. Old Business

There was no old business.

#### VII. New Business.

There was no old business.

#### VIII. Announcements.

Dr. Rogers called for nominations for chair of the Graduate Faculty Assembly. He requested that they be sent to him by electronic mail in enough time to appear on the ballot at the April 19 meeting. He stressed that they be submitted as quickly as possible.

#### IX. A motion to adjourn was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Dave Pretty, Secretary.