

MINUTES  
GRADUATE FACULTY ASSEMBLY  
November 22, 2002

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Dwight Dimaculangan. The minutes of the October 4, 2002 Graduate Faculty Assembly were approved as distributed.

Dr. Dimaculangan indicated that the Graduate Council was still working on a letter of support for increasing graduate salaries and scholarships. Dr. Dimaculangan further indicated that the Graduate Council would have the letter by the next Graduate Faculty Assembly. If the letter is approved by the Graduate Faculty Assembly, it will be presented to the Board of Trustees at the February meeting.

Dr. Melford Wilson, Vice President for Academic Affairs, was present, but made no remarks.

Dr. Wilhelmenia Rembert, Associate Vice president for Graduate Studies, reported that the final enrollment for Fall Semester was 1,417 students. Dr. Rembert also reported that Graduate Studies would receive a graduate brochure proof from University Relations by January 2003. If lucky, the graduate brochure will be finished by the end of the academic year. Dr. Rembert informed the Graduate Assembly of issues discussed at a meeting of South Carolina Graduate Deans. One issue discussed was a plan by the Graduate Deans to develop a statement for the Governor (and others) on the importance of graduate education to the economic progress of South Carolina. Other items discussed included: support for a virtual library; the need for additional funding for graduate students in order to be more competitive; and health insurance benefits for graduate students. Dr. Rembert also reported that the Graduate Deans talked about the Low Country Graduate Center. The Center is comprised of the Citadel, College of Charleston, and MUSC and its mission is economic development. Dr. Rembert will report in the future on the progress of the Center. Dr. Rembert mentioned that Dr. Gail Morrison, staff member of the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, will serve as the staff person to the Research Centers of Excellence. Finally, Dr. Rembert mentioned the people involved with the planning and coordinating of the fall graduate commencement program and/or reception. These people included the Deans of Colleges and Graduate Program Directors.

Dr. Bill Rogers, Chair of Graduate Council, reported on actions taken at the November 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. These actions included approving all curriculum proposals under consideration. However, Dr. Rogers indicated that one proposal from the Department of Modern Languages to include application deadlines for fall/summer and spring semesters had not gotten through Teacher Education and had gone back to them. If there is a problem at Teacher Education, then Graduate Council will reconsider the proposal. Dr. Rogers reported that Dr. Theodore Zainal, Department of Chemistry, Physics and Geology was approved for membership in Graduate Faculty Assembly. Three student petitions were approved and one was tabled. Future meeting dates were announced. Graduate Council is working on a letter that speaks to value of graduate programs and plans to bring the letter to the next Graduate Faculty Assembly meeting, January 31, 2003. Dr. Rogers stated that Winthrop provides less graduate assistance than peer institutions in the state. There was a brief discussion about ways that money might be raised for graduate education.

There was no old or new business.

There were no announcements.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlton Bessinger, Secretary