

**Winthrop University Graduate Faculty Assembly**  
April 19, 2013  
Immediately following Faculty Conference in Kinard Auditorium

**Minutes**

I. Call to Order

At 2:44 pm and with a quorum of 25 (or more) in attendance, the meeting was called to order by Sue Lyman, Chair of Graduate Faculty Assembly.

II. Welcoming Remarks

The Chair welcomed all who were in attendance.

III. Approval of minutes of Graduate Faculty Assembly from March 8, 2013.

The minutes from March 8, 2013 were amended (typo corrected) changing the spelling of “Jordon” to “Jordan” (Jennifer Jordan). The minutes were then approved by motion, second, and unanimous consent.

IV. Report from Vice President of Academic Affairs

The Vice President of Academic Affairs, Debra Boyd, noted the sizeable graduating class this semester and remarked that she looked forward to seeing the faculty at Graduation.

V. Report from the Graduate Council

The Chair of Graduate Council, Stevie Chepko, reported that fifteen individual curriculum actions were approved.

Brought to the floor of Graduate Faculty Assembly by the Chair of Graduate Council was a request to change the program SSP in School Psychology to add a required course—PSYC619 – Contemporary Issues in Family Diversity and Schools (3 credits), replacing as a Requirement CSDV Social and Cultural Issues (3 credits). Graduate Faculty Assembly approved the request unanimously.

The Chair of Graduate Council reported that six petitions were submitted for consideration. Of those six, five petitions were approved and one petition was tabled until the Graduate Petition meeting scheduled for April 23, 2013.

The Chair of Graduate Council discussed proposed changes to the Graduate Petitions Policy and noted that “6-year rule” petitions, if granted, may need to be for 1 year and that the petition process may be better handled at the College level. Under discussion (presented visually and distributed as a handout) was the following:

**Proposed Revisions to the Graduate Petitions Policy**

The goal of reviewing the current petitions policy was to ensure that the process was streamlined for students, and to reduce the overall number of petitions that are reviewed by the graduate petitions committee each semester. A sub-committee of Graduate Council collected benchmark data by reviewing the policies of universities similar to Winthrop, and devised a number of recommendations based on their results.

While the graduate petitions committee receives petitions for many different things, we are only making recommendations regarding petitions for extensions to the “6-year rule” (see below). These petitions make up more than 60% of the petitions reviewed by the committee each month and our goal is to make this process faster and easier for students, faculty, and administration.

### **Petitions for extensions on the 6-year rule**

Currently, the rule states the following: “All work to be counted on the degree, including transfer work, must be completed within the 6-year period immediately prior to the conferring of the degree.”

We recommend the following stipulations on this policy:

- Petitions requesting up to a 3 year extension to the 6-year rule would be reviewed and approved at the college level (i.e., with appropriate signatures by the student’s advisor, department chair, and graduate director or dean). Petitions requesting more than a three year extension must also be approved by the graduate petitions committee (see below). If the petition is denied at the college level, the student may have the option of appealing to the graduate petitions committee.
- If approved, the student would be granted an extension for the entire academic year. This will alleviate the need for the student to submit multiple petitions in a single year.
- To reduce the number of repeat petitions, students who seek a multi-year extension are encouraged to submit only one petition indicating the total number of years they need included in their extension. However, the body that approves the petition at the college level (i.e., the student’s advisor, department chair, and graduate director or dean), may decide to grant an extension of fewer years than that which is requested by the student.
- Petitions requesting extensions that exceed a three year period (i.e., course work completed more than 9 years before the conferring of the degree) must be approved by **both** the college (i.e., with appropriate signatures by the student’s advisor, department chair, and graduate director or dean) and the graduate petitions committee. If the petition is approved at the college level, the student’s advisor, department chair, or graduate director or dean must provide sound justification for supporting the student’s request either in writing (addressed to the graduate petitions committee) or in person at the monthly meetings of graduate petitions committee.

## VI. Report from the Dean of the Graduate School

Prior to this meeting, the Chair of Graduate Faculty Assembly, Sue Lyman distributed (at the request of the Dean of the Graduate School, Jack DeRochi) graduate enrollment

data for spring 2013 to the graduate faculty (see email, Sue Lyman, "Enrollment Data for GFA," April 16, 2013).

The Dean of the Graduate School, Jack DeRochi, discussed student loan debt and the possibility of considering and drafting a proposal for a TIAA-CREF grant to address current debt levels. He also discussed the possibility of establishing a Student Advisory Council at the graduate level in order to improve student services.

VII. Unfinished Business (none)

VIII. New Business (none)

IX. Announcements

Graduate Commencement is May 2, 2013 with 260 graduate degree candidates.

X. The meeting adjourned at 2:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ian D. Pearson, Ph.D., Secretary, GFA

Department of Music