Winthrop University Graduate Faculty Assembly-Minutes  
November 20, 2009  
Carroll Hall Auditorium

I. Call to order  
Kristi Westover called the meeting to order at 3:20 p.m.

II. Welcoming remarks  
No remarks were made.

III. Minutes from Graduate Faculty Assembly on September 25, 2009  
The minutes of the September 25, 2009 meeting were approved.

IV. Report from Graduate Council-Gale Teaster-Woods  

A. Curriculum Proposals

*College of Arts and Sciences:*

**Modify: ANTH540:** Change in course title to reflect main focus of course.  
Old transcript title: ECOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLGY  /New transcript title would be: HUMAN ECOLOGY

**Modify: NUTR 520:** Prerequisite(s) FROM: NUTR 221. TO: NUTR 221 and BIOL 308.


**Modify: SCWK 633** Change: Catalog description from: Provides an advanced understanding of social work research by integrating knowledge gained in practice courses with experience in field placements. Using quantitative and qualitative approaches, the course advances critical thinking skills to determine selection, development, and employment of knowledge regarding best practice approaches. To: This course is designed to provide MSW students with an advanced understanding of social work research with a focus on program evaluation. Critical thinking skills will be augmented in order to determine selection, development, and employment of knowledge and skills applicable to effective evaluation. Students will apply advanced social work research concepts and theory, with special attention to the importance of empowerment in program evaluation. This course seeks to use advanced research processes in ways that will be of practical and beneficial use to the students, clients, and social work agencies.

**Modify: SCWK 642** Change: Catalog description from: This course focuses on advanced social work practice in health and mental health arenas. Concepts of advanced social work assessment and intervention relative to current evidence-based practice modalities are addressed. An emphasis is placed on the continuum of knowledge and skill development needed for effective practice within health and mental health systems. This course is based on an empowerment-based perspective that affirms client strengths and coping capacities within a context of professional social work values and ethics, social justice, and affirmation of human rights of diverse groups of people relative to race,
ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, ability, and socioeconomic class. **To:** This advanced social work practice course serves as the capstone seminar experience in the MSW curriculum. Its purpose is for students to refine and explicate their knowledge of advanced social work practice theories and methodologies relative to the health/mental health field of practice and the Social Work Program concentration in empowerment practice. A primary focus of the seminar will be on students developing a comprehensive written paper and an accompanying professional presentation of selected theories and practice methods that comprise their philosophical orientation to advanced social work practice.

**Modify:** SCWK 643 Change: Catalog description from: This is an advanced intervention course that emphasizes the critical examination within the context of the NASW Code of Ethics of best practice strategies that promote resilience and sense of coherence for work with families and children. This examination involves the development and implementation of culturally appropriate interventions that are based on best practice research findings and the critical evaluation of one’s own social work practice families and children. **To:** This advanced social work practice course serves as the capstone seminar experience in the MSW curriculum. Its purpose is for students to refine and explicate their knowledge of advanced social work practice theories and methodologies relative to the families and children field of practice and the Social Work Program concentration in empowerment practice. A primary focus of the seminar will be on students developing a comprehensive written paper and an accompanying professional presentation of selected theories and practice methods that comprise their philosophical orientation to advanced social work practice.

**Modify:** WRIT501: Change in course title to reflect terminology change within the discipline.

Old transcript title: Writing for Electronic Publication
New transcript title: Writing for New Media

V. **Dean of the Graduate School’s Report**

Dr. Yvonne Murnane delivered the report.

A. Dr. Murnane welcomed Drs. Kunsiri Grubbs (Biology), Jason Jannot (Biology), and Gregory Crider (Chair of History), having received Graduate Faculty status.

B. Graduate Open House: January 26, 2010 in Tuttle Dining Room 5:00 to 6:30 pm.

We surveyed the graduate program directors about location and layout for an Open House, and the suggestion was to have more space to talk with potential students. Tuttle Dining Room gives us more space for table and chairs for each program. The expectation is that each of the 24 programs will have a representative. Even though attendance over the years has decreased, the program directors value the opportunity to meet with potential students.

C. Graduate Student Activities

Lunch with the Dean was held on October 28. Fourteen students attended representing each of the 4 colleges and 9 programs. This event included full time students and discussion centered on how they were balancing family and life with graduate study and the research activities of the students.

Two coffees with the Dean occurred this past Tuesday evening before classes in Withers and in Thurmond. There will be other Coffees with the Dean in the spring semester, perhaps in the
West Center and a location for VPA and Arts & Sciences students. The late afternoon/ evening Coffees are an opportunity to interact with part time students.

D. The Graduate Council along with the Graduate Student Advisory Council is generating ideas for students to present their research/projects/ portfolios. We have initiated social networking opportunities and we recognize that scholarly networking is important to the life of the graduate student. Contact any of the Graduate Council members or Margaret Williamson with ideas.

E. Revised Mission Statement

Graduate education at Winthrop University provides advanced study in a variety of academic disciplines and professional fields while meeting the growing demands of local, regional, national, and global communities. Through quality teaching, scholarship, and service, Winthrop faculty deliver nationally- accredited graduate-level education in a wide range of disciplines. Our national caliber programs are intellectually rigorous and incorporate current concepts and practices. Graduate education at Winthrop helps students realize their intellectual and personal potentials and enables them to advance in their fields, enter careers that require education beyond the baccalaureate level, and continue on to doctoral and professional programs.

Graduate Council and members of the Academic Leadership Council have reviewed the Mission statement and both bodies recommend endorsement of the revised statement.

There was discussion of why ethical leadership is not included. The issue of including the graduate program relationship to economic development in the state was also discussed. There was a consensus that both ethical leadership and the relationship of WU graduate programs to SC economic development need to be reflected somewhere in our Graduate School documents. Dean Murnane concurred.

The graduate mission statement was unanimously endorsed for catalog copy as presented.

F. Graduate Enrollment

Fall 2009
Total Graduate: 1215
Degree Seeking: 885
Special: 330
Admissions for Spring 2010
Applications: 173
Admitted: 89
Rejected: 12

Registration for Spring 2010: 555
Full Time: 303
Part Time: 252
GSTC: 4
Newly Admitted: 28
Comparison information: Looking at the application numbers from this date for the spring 2009 our applications for 2010 have a 5% increase. If you compare applications from 2008 to 2010, we have a 29% increase. If we compare from the 2007 spring, we have more than doubled our applications.

Thanks for all the work that you do for in graduate education.

VI. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business

VII. New Business

Three changes to International Student Admission Requirements were unanimously approved. The details are shown below.

(1) Remove requirement for 3 additional letters of recommendation (beyond those required by the program) to be submitted; effective beginning Summer 2010. This removes the following language from the current graduate catalog:

- ‘Recommendations: The international graduate applicant must submit three letters of recommendation to the Graduate School from previous professors and/or employers.’

(2) Allowing additional tests of English as a foreign language to be accepted for admission. Individual programs will still be able to apply more stringent requirements. The changes represent minimum standards. The catalog would be changed as follows:

- **FROM:** Test of English as a Foreign Language: All international graduate applicants must present an official TOEFL score of at least 213 on the computer-based and 550 on the paper-based test to the Graduate School.

- **TO:** Test of English as a Foreign Language: All international graduate applicants must present an official TOEFL score of at least 213 on the computer-based and 550 on the paper-based test and the TOEFL iBT score of 79, IELTS 6 (MBA 6.5) or ELS 122 to the Graduate School.

(3) Remove requirement of the certified financial statement as a criteria for admission. The catalog would be amended in the following manner:

- **FROM:** Financial and Bank Statement: A certified financial statement indicating the applicant’s ability to pay for expenses incurred as a student and an original/official bank statement no more than six months old at the time of registration must be submitted to Graduate Studies. In certain cases, advance payment of tuition and fees may be required.

- **TO:** Financial and Bank Statement: A certified financial statement indicating the applicant’s ability to pay for expenses incurred as a student and an original/official bank statement no more than six months old at the time of registration must be submitted to the Graduate School in order to obtain the I-20 Visa. In certain cases, advance payment of tuition and fees may be required.
VIII. Announcements

There were no announcements.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:44 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda Pickett