

**Winthrop University Graduate Faculty Assembly**  
Minutes for December 2, 2016, 2pm meeting (combined with Faculty Conference)  
Barnes Recital Hall

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:40 pm. A quorum was present.

II. Welcoming Remarks

Melissa Carsten  
Graduate Faculty Assembly Chair

Dr. Carsten thanked everyone for attending.

III. Approval of minutes of the Graduate Faculty Assembly from April 8, 2016

The minutes from the April 8, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously.

IV. Report from the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

Debra Boyd

Dr. Boyd talked about issues related to the online programs and the relationship with Wiley. She indicated that the university went through a long RFP process to look for a partner who could help get programs online. At this time we do not have sufficient infrastructure to do this on our own. The process is still ongoing; it has been a little slow because we want to make sure that we are doing due diligence in terms of what we know. It is a very important decision for the institution. Dr. Boyd emphasized that we do not have a contract yet; we will only move forward if the numbers indicate that it will be a good partnership. The university is interested in online programs that will attract students that we are not attracting otherwise. A critical piece is to operationalize the decision once we make it, which will entail a lot of support from programs. We will begin with a core, then add or change programs. However, we are trying to make sure that the best interests of both parties meet. This is a process the university is committed to, but we'd like to make sure that it works.

There were no questions from the audience.

V. Report from the Graduate Council

Lisa Harris  
Graduate Council Chair

- Graduate Council 2015 - 2016 Priorities

Dr. Harris presented the priorities for the academic year: the 4+1 policy, which will be refined along with the development of all necessary forms, Digital Measures, and online programs (see slides).

Dr. Harris mentioned the faculty who were awarded or renewed GFA status and the graduate petitions that were approved (see slides).

- Curriculum Action required – please refer to the curriculum management system for justification and explanations.
  - MA-SPAN – drop program, declining enrollment and few resources (1 faculty member, no students since 2012-13).

The curriculum action to drop the MA-SPAN program passed unanimously.

- Review of curriculum items approved by Graduate Council that do not require a GFA vote and are being considered by CUC - see end of minutes.
- Review of curriculum items approved at the college level that do not require a GFA vote - see end of minutes.

VI. Report from the Dean of the Graduate School Jack DeRochi

Dr. DeRochi sent his report by email. He highlighted a couple of things in his report. First, the Graduate Education Week will take place February 13-17, 2017. Winthrop's events are the best in the state. He noted that the first day is Regalia Day. Dr. DeRochi encouraged all faculty and staff who hold graduate degrees to wear their academic regalia that day. We would like to encourage our students to think about graduate education. Another event, scheduled for February 14, 2017, is a panel discussion on why graduate education matters.

Dr. DeRochi shared some great news with the audience: the Graduate School will be able to award four \$1,000 scholarships based on merit and need in the next academic year. In addition, there is funding available to support student presentations at professional conferences, and to support travel to conduct research. All necessary forms are online.

There were no questions from the audience.

VII. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

VIII. New Business

There was no new business.

IX. Announcements

Dr. Carsten announced the date for the next GFA meeting: February 24, 2017.

X. Adjournment

The GFA meeting adjourned at 3:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Adriana Cordis  
Secretary

### **Curriculum Items that do not require a GFA vote**

Curriculum items approved by the Graduate Council that have been sent to CUC for consideration:

- BIOL515H – drop, course never existed, catalog clean-up
- BIOL521 – drop, course out of date and not taught for years, catalog clean-up
- BIOL557 – drop, content covered in other courses and not taught for years, catalog clean-up
- LGST550 – new, developed to allow graduate students to take a special topics LGST course
- MAED591 – modify, change in pre-req for better sequencing of courses in program
- MAED593 – new, will take the place of EDUC695 capstone course and will be specific to Mathematics education
- MATH503 – drop, no longer offered
- MATH522- drop, no longer offered
- MATH541- modify, title change, dropping MATH 542: Probability and Statistics II, so change title to Probability and Statistics and delete the I
- MATH542 – drop, no longer offered
- MATH545 – drop, no longer offered
- MATH575 – drop, no longer offered

Curriculum items approved at the college level:

- SCWK622A – modify, Drop prerequisite
- SCWK622B – modify, Drop prerequisite
- SCWK632A – modify, Drop prerequisite
- SCWK632B – modify, Drop prerequisite