

**Winthrop University Graduate Faculty Assembly**  
Minutes, November 13, 2015  
Carroll Hall – Whitton Auditorium

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:07pm. A motion to conduct business in the absence of a quorum passed unanimously.

II. Welcoming Remarks - Malayka Klimchak, Graduate Faculty Assembly Chair

Dr. Klimchak welcomed everyone and thanked Dr. Cordis and Dr. Heard for serving as secretary and parliamentarian, respectively.

III. Approval of minutes of the Graduate Faculty Assembly from September 18, 2015  
Please find the minutes at the bottom of this agenda.

The minutes from the September 18, 2015 meeting were approved unanimously.

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

Dr. Boyd provided a couple of updates:

1. The working groups established by President Mahony are working diligently and will try to provide interim responses to the President before the end of the year. They are generating ideas about things that can be done both in the short term and the long term. The Provost's office provided access to documentation, best practices, etc. There will be opportunities for all of us to discuss the ideas generated at different stages, both in the draft stage and later in the final stage. Dr. Boyd thinks the groups will provide some very good material for us to look at and respond to.

There are other studies being conducted and other materials being produced. For example, the athletic department is doing a study with help from a handful of faculty with expertise on economic impact of football. There will be a careful, methodical, thoughtful analysis of the situation before a decision is made regarding football at Winthrop. The Board and the President are committed to making a decision. A member of the assembly informed Dr. Boyd that there is a student in the Master in Sport Administration program doing a thesis on football at Winthrop. Dr. Boyd suggested that the student contacts Dr. Laura Ullrich so that effort is not duplicated.

A GFA member asked Dr. Boyd to talk about how graduate education is under the purview of the current working groups. Dr. Boyd responded that there isn't a separate category for graduate education. She added that the range of concepts in higher education encompasses issues regarding both undergraduate and graduate education, such as completion, and undergraduate education only, such as retention. Graduate education should definitely be included under the academic programs group. Dr. Boyd noted that President Mahony is committed to ensuring that all students get the benefit of what's going on at Winthrop. This is also true when looking at budget. The revenue model is different for graduate than undergraduate. The way we're allocating funds and how revenue is brought in are tied. Some programs are bringing in a lot of revenue, some are losing money. Dr. Boyd added that it's not a matter of "can we afford to keep this program?" If the program is valuable

to our mission, then we think of ways of finding resources. Dr. Boyd has been looking at multiple handouts of budget models in higher education. Her inclination is to look at programs that aren't doing well and to try to figure out why they aren't doing well and the reasons the programs were put in place to begin with rather than eliminating them immediately.

2. Another thing Dr. Boyd wanted to mention is that a group was put together to talk about Tillman Hall. This group has expanded and it's now called the Campus Heritage group. It is aimed at asking questions about the university, and seeing what faculty, students, and staff like best about Winthrop and what things they would like to see changed. Given the recent developments across the country, the campus climate with respect to diversity is always a question that needs to be addressed. The group met with student council leaders, student organizations, and plans to meet with departments.

#### V. Report from the Graduate Council - Melissa Carsten, Graduate Council Chair

Dr. Carsten provided an update on several action items:

1. Changes to the graduate faculty communication/governance, such as posting minutes early, and website, are in process.
2. The 4+1 proposal will be discussed and voted on today.
3. The GFA post-tenure policy is in process; a proposal is to add a checkbox in Digital Measures/Activity Insight (DM/AI) that allows faculty to indicate whether they are current GFA members and what they do to stay current. The DM/AI system is not centralized; Dr. Carsten will talk to DM/AI representatives from each college.

With respect to the 4+1 policy, Dr. Carsten emphasized that currently, undergraduate students can take 500-level courses for graduate credit only during their last semester. She added that we want to open this up for students who plan to attend graduate school here (see attached policy for accelerated programs). The policy will not apply to all of the programs. It will be applied only to programs approved as "accelerated graduate programs." For example, only the MAT-1 is a current 4+1 accelerated program.

Dr. DeRochi noted that he received feedback from graduate directors and faculty. This is not a policy for all undergraduate students. It is a policy that allows departments to create 4+1 programs; the policy can be applied only within these programs. Every school in SC offers accelerated programs. The basic concept is, SACS requires a minimum of 120 undergraduate hours and 30 graduate hours for 2 degrees (total of 150 hours). Under our policy, the accelerated programs will consist of 141 hours; it does not apply to all UG students, but can be developed within departments.

Dr. Carsten added that the policy would require students to have better foresight about what they want to do. If they decide to pursue 4+1 they need to meet with the graduate director and talk about the courses that they should take. UG students must take the 500-level courses with the intention to pursue graduate school; they cannot go back after they have completed the courses to request credit for graduate school. Dr. Klimchak added that this can be used as a jumpstart for other innovative options, such as an HR program.

A GFA member asked how SACS may react to this policy. Dr. DeRochi noted that SACS is concerned about rigor. Reducing the total hours from 150 to 141 does not impact rigor—several schools have received approval for similar programs. He added Winthrop has precedence as well, that we allow 9 credit hours that can be transferred from other schools. However, programs creating

accelerated programs must have mechanisms to ensure that graduate rigor is maintained in all these 500-level courses.

There were no other questions. The motion to approve the proposed Policy for Accelerated Graduate Programs passed unanimously.

A second policy up for review and a vote was allowing students to apply for certificates (see attached policy for certificates). This policy allows students who previously completed graduate courses that now satisfy a graduate certificate that was recently created. This policy would allow these students, if they completed this work in the last six years, to receive a certificate showing the completion of these courses. Students would need to apply for readmission and then apply apply for the certificate. The student could receive this graduate certificate only if the graduate program director approves the students program of study. The policy puts the authority in the hands of the faculty. It allows programs to do this if the program director agrees (i.e., if the course has changed substantially over time, it may not be counted).

A GFA member asked if non-degree-seeking students are eligible. Dr. DeRochi noted that it depends on the courses that they took and that it is up to the graduate program director to see if the students qualify. However, the policy does not specifically prohibit it.

There were no other questions. The motion to approve the proposed Certificates for Prior Coursework Policy passed unanimously.

Dr. Carsten added that the Graduate Council approved two petitions, awarded GFA status to several faculty, and renewed the GFA status for several faculty (see ppt. slides). There were no curriculum actions requiring vote. See slides/agenda for course action approved by the Graduate Council.

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

On the issue of adding GFA status in DM/AI, Dr. DeRochi added that availability of information regarding the GFA status and what faculty are doing to maintain it will help make things easier when reapplying for GFA status. Please see the Dean's Report dated November 13, 2015 for more information.

Dr. DeRochi emphasized two things:

1. A graduate school newsletter was put together and sent to alumni and donors. It has received positive feedback, so the plan is to do this quarterly. A graduate student in the office is working on it, meeting with the graduate director, highlighting accomplishments of graduate students, faculty, alumni. Dr. DeRochi reminded faculty to inform the graduate directors and the graduate school of any accomplishments.

2. SC Graduate Education Week will be held February 15-19, 2016. It was established to highlight the importance of graduate students across the state. Every institution has its own events. At Winthrop, an open house will be held on Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. There will be a poster session highlighting student research to give students the opportunity to speak in public, and another event where friends and colleagues from the community will be invited to learn more about the graduate

school. Dr. DeRochi added that he hopes the SC graduate education week will have stronger support in the future.

A GFA member asked Dr. DeRochi to talk about online programs and the RFP. Dr. DeRochi noted that a vendor made a proposal, the RFP review committee thought it was good and began negotiations. No award was given. The GFA member inquired about the criteria used when initiating contracts with vendors. Dr. DeRochi noted that the criteria and scoring are public.

Another GFA member inquired whether it is possible for the graduate faculty and graduate program directors to get a copy of the newsletter. Dr. DeRochi informed the faculty that a link to the letter is available on the webpage and that he'll make sure it is distributed.

#### VII. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

#### VIII. New Business

There was no new business.

#### IX. Announcements

Dr. Carsten reminded faculty that the Fall Graduate Commencement is on Saturday, December 19, 2015 and that the next GFA Meeting is on Friday, February 26, 2016.

Mr. Tim Drueke reminded faculty that there will be a single commencement ceremony and asked that we pay attention to the information from Dr. Gary Stone regarding lineup, parking, etc.

#### X. Adjournment

The GFA meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Adriana Cordis  
Secretary