

**Winthrop University Graduate Faculty Assembly**  
**April 22, 2011**  
**Barnes Recital Hall**  
***Immediately Followed Faculty Conference***

**I. Jack DeRochi called the meeting to order at 3:15pm**

**II. Welcoming remarks**

**III. Minutes from Graduate Faculty Assembly on December 3, 2010**

Seconded and approved

**IV. Postponed Business: Plus/Minus Grading Proposal (attached starting on page 3)**

Invited discussion

Don Rogers questioned the parenthetical statement before Probation “a grade below B is earned...”

Tom Moore questioned the same parenthetical statement

Andy Doyle said that this mirrors what is in the graduate catalog so it gets credit

Beth Costner moved to amend the plus-minus and probation document by striking the statement (seconded by Frank Pullano).

The amendment passed

Conversation ensued about our ability to discriminate grades and the standards by which we teach.

Cara Peters stated that this will impact a number of students in the College of Business and may lead to a larger number of petitions.

The question of potential grade inflation was brought forth

Dr. Pretty said that some of these students may now get C+ rather than C

Andy Doyle stated that universities who made this change saw no or negligible changes in overall gpa

Dean Murnane sees no difference in number of students on probation or dismissal. This will also help discriminate grade levels

Jack DeRochi verified that we have the option to use the + / - grades

The Motion passed

**V. Dean's Report—Yvonne Murnane**

Please see the Dean's Report

Dean Murnane thanked Beth Costner for serving for 6 years as she is not new to GFA. She also thanked Jack DeRochi (Chair) and Andy Doyle (Graduate Council).

She stated that 239 graduate degrees will be conferred in May, 2011 which is the second highest number ever. Twelve theses were completed.

She showed the wording for the GRE change statement. Brad Witzel asked if this is the final wording. It was decided that the second paragraph will be changed to 2011.

**VI. Report from Graduate Council—Andy Doyle (see attached)**

**--Curriculum Items**

No action needed on curriculum action

Andy Doyle listed course changes that were approved since the March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting

**--Elections:**

**Chair, Graduate Faculty Assembly**

GFA voted by ballot

No nominations were given from the floor

Nominations closed

Motion on the floor to elect Don Rogers because there were no new motions on the floor

**GFA Representative to Committee on University Curriculum**

No new nominations were presented and the nominations were closed

**VI. Unfinished Business**

none

**VII. New Business**

none

**VIII. Announcements**

**IX. Adjournment = 3:41**

## **Plus/Minus Grading Proposal**

The following proposed grading system would replace that found on page 34 of the 2010-2011 catalog:

### **Grading System**

A	Excellent (4 quality points per semester hour)
A-	(3.67 quality points per semester hour)
B+	(3.33 quality points per semester hour)
B	Satisfactory (3 quality points per semester hour)
B-	(2.67 quality points per semester hour)
C+	(2.33 quality points per semester hour)
C	Passing (2 quality points per semester hour)
F	Failure
N	No Grade
AU	Audit
S*	Satisfactory: equivalent to B or above in a course taken on satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis
U*	Unsatisfactory: equivalent to B- or below in a course taken on satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis
I	Incomplete: I must be used only as a prefix to a grade. Assigning an incomplete to a student in a course taken for graduate credit indicates that, for valid reason, the course has not been completed and that the instructor reserves the right to raise the grade if the incomplete work is finalized within one year or by an earlier date specified by the instructor. The grade to which I is prefixed is not used in computing the student's grade-point average until the prefix is removed and indicates the grade earned if no further work is performed. It is the grade in the course unless and until changed by the instructor.

(A student receives credit for any course in which a grade below B is earned, but graduation requirements mandate that such grades must be balanced by good or excellent work in other courses.)

### **I. Probation**

The following proposed language would replace that found in the first three paragraphs of page 31 of the 2010-11 graduate catalog, under the heading entitled, "Probation":

#### **Probation**

Once a student has been admitted with graduate degree status (G) or with graduate non-degree status (GN), he or she is expected to maintain an acceptable cumulative grade point average. A student whose cumulative grade point averages fall below 2.85 during the first 18 hours of coursework is placed on academic probation. A student who has earned more than 18 hours and who fails to maintain a grade point average of 3.0 is placed on probation. A student may take up to nine hours while on academic probation. If the grade-point average does not rise to the minimum acceptable standard based on the number of hours earned within the first nine hours of being placed on probation, the student is dismissed from graduate study. A course in which the student receives a grade of W/N is included in this nine-hour limit.\* If a student repeats one or two courses while on academic probation, the new grade replaces the original grade in the calculation of the grade-point average.

Grade-point averages calculated for removal of probationary status are based on all graduate courses taken at Winthrop University, not on selected courses. All course work used to restore the grade-point average to the minimum acceptable standard based on the number of hours earned must be completed at Winthrop. Credit earned at any other institution while the student is on academic probation or is ineligible to enroll at Winthrop cannot be applied to any degree at Winthrop University.

## **II. Repeating Courses**

The following proposed language would replace that found in the first paragraph in the second column of page 36 of the 2010-2011 graduate catalog, under the heading entitled, "Repeating Courses":

### **Repeating Courses**

A graduate student is allowed to repeat a maximum of two courses in which he or she has been assigned a grade below B. A given course may be repeated once. Whenever a course is repeated, no additional attempted hours accrue, and the new grade replaces the previous grade in computing the grade-point average. However, the record of the first attempt will remain a part of the student's permanent record.