

Winthrop University Graduate Faculty Assembly
Minutes, April 8, 2016
1:00pm Carroll Hall – Whitton Auditorium

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm. A motion to conduct business in the absence of a quorum passed unanimously.

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

Dr. Klimchak thanked everyone for attending.

III. Approval of minutes of the Graduate Faculty Assembly from February 26, 2016

The minutes from the February 26, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously.

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

Dr. Boyd reminded everyone that there will be two undergraduate commencements and a graduate commencement. Both undergraduate commencements will have part of the investiture ceremony for Dr. Mahony embedded. If faculty members are interested in attending both ceremonies they should inform their chair and dean. The university is planning a lunch for faculty and staff who are attending both events, so a hard count for the lunch is needed. A decision on the venue has not been made yet.

V. Report from the Graduate Council – Michael Lipscomb, Graduate Council

Dr. Lipscomb discussed the 2015-2016 priorities. He noted that the Graduate Faculty Communication/Governance website, which contains information on the Graduate Faculty Council and the GFA, has been completed. The website is housed on the Graduate School webpage and can be accessed at: <http://www.winthrop.edu/graduateschool/default.aspx?id=43990>
A GFA member asked whether there is a link to this website on the Faculty Conference. Dr. Klimchak responded that this will be added soon. The review of the “4+1” policy has also been completed.

A third priority for the year was to review the policy regarding the renewal of GF status in conjunction with post-tenure review. This is consistent with best practices and the bylaws. We tried to make this process user friendly. Faculty will be able to generate a report in Digital Measures that provides the information necessary to renew their GF status. This should be up and running by the beginning of the fall semester. More details will be provided at that time.

Two graduate school policies were reviewed and passed by the Graduate Council:

(1) Graduate Readmission after Academic Dismissal. The word “enough” (courses) was added to underline that students don’t have to retake all courses. In addition, a sentence was added about the possibility of additional course requirements. This is to allow graduate directors to determine what courses are necessary. Please see the attached Policy for more

information. A detailed discussion of these changes is included in Dr. DeRochi's report. A motion to pass these changes as written was approved unanimously.

(2) Provisional Admission. The change was to allow students to take up to 12 hours (rather than 9) as provisional admitted students. If students are only allowed to take 9 hours of provisional course work they are not able to obtain the financial aid necessary to continue in the second semester. Please see the attached Policy for more information. A detailed discussion of these changes is included in Dr. DeRochi's report. A motion to pass these changes as written was approved unanimously.

A change to the graduate catalog for MBA program was proposed. This change is designed to bring our offerings in line with those of our competitors. Specifically, the language was adjusted to allow all MBA students, not just accounting students, to take one 600-level course conditional on meeting the specified criteria (see attached document). A GFA member pointed out a typo. There was no further discussion. A motion to pass these changes was approved unanimously.

Curriculum Action – please refer to the curriculum management system for justification and explanations.

The curriculum action reflects changes in state requirements. The following curriculum items requiring a GFA vote were reviewed:

Modify the MAT ALL:

Remove READ 605 as state requirements have changed.

This action was approved unanimously.

Modify the MAT 5:

Remove EDUC 601 and 605 and READ 645. Remove READ 605 as state requirements have changed. Add electives as needed for a total of 30 hours.

This action was approved unanimously.

The following curriculum items approved by the Graduate Council that do not require a GFA vote were reviewed:

Modify the MS in School Psychology to:

Eliminate PSYC 506 as a program prerequisite, substitute PSYC 506 for PSYC 515, and substitute PSYC 510 for PSYC 508.

Modify the MS in Sport and Fitness Administration:

Remove SPFA 640, 682, 694, HLTH 600 and the thesis requirement from the core. Add SPFA 619, 625, 630 and 635 to the core. PSYC 506 for PSYC 515, and

substitute PSYC 510 for PSYC 508. Created Fitness Administration and Sports Management tracks with each having a practicum or thesis option.

One GFA member noted that the line “**PSYC 506 for PSYC 515, and substitute PSYC 510 for PSYC 508**” was included in error and should be deleted from the suggested modifications for the MS in Sport and Fitness Administration. The information was deleted.

Dr. Klimchak noted that the number of hours remains the same but that there are two tracks. An observation was made that the course names were similar to course names in other disciplines. Dr. Boyd stated that she believes all appropriate departments have been notified.

This action was approved unanimously.

Curriculum items approved by Graduate Council that do not require a GFA vote and are being considered by CUC were reviewed (see meeting agenda).

Curriculum items approved at the college level that do not require a GFA vote were reviewed (see meeting agenda).

GFA Elections

Elections for the GFA Chair and GFA representative to the FCUP were held. There were two candidates for the first position: Melissa Carsten and Antigo Martin Delaney. There were no new nominations from the floor. A motion to close the nominations was approved unanimously. There were two candidates for the second position: Malayka Klimchak and Clara Paulino. There were no new nominations from the floor. A motion to close the nominations was approved unanimously.

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

Dr. DeRochi emphasized a couple of things:

For the first time, we were able to offer four (4) Graduate School Need-Based Scholarships in the amount of \$500 each. These were made possible by the generous donations from members of the Board. There were over 40 applications for these four scholarships, which reaffirms the need for financial support for graduate students. The scholarships require that students have completed 12 graduate hours and a 3.5 GPA. There is some conversation in the Graduate Council regarding how to define “need.” The hope is that the scholarship amounts will increase in the next year. This year, the applications were reviewed by the Graduate Dean’s Council. A recommendation was made to engage faculty in the process. Therefore, next year the decision committee may include faculty.

The Graduate Celebration Reception will be held the Tuesday before the graduate commencement. Students can bring a guest or invite their faculty mentor. There are a large number (over 200) of May graduates this year.

The 2nd graduate newsletter was distributed. We are trying to create a culture where newsworthy information about students and their research is shared.

Dr. DeRochi thanked Dr. Malayka Klimchak and Dr. Melissa Carsten for their tremendous work; they devoted significant time to thinking about both graduate faculty needs and graduate students' needs.

Dr. Boyd informed faculty about the reports to the BOT about success stories happening on campus. These reports, which are compiled by the Deans, are an incredible source of information to the BOT members that they can share with the community. Dr. Boyd encouraged faculty to share any success stories. Those regarding graduate issues or activities should be sent to Dean DeRochi. The reports include all information that the Deans receive unless previously reported. They are also used for state accountability reporting, and contain four categories: Faculty, Students, Alumni, Programmatic.

A GFA member asked if it is possible for the BOT to report on their activities (for example, student recruiting) so that faculty, staff, and alumni are aware of this work. Dr. Boyd will investigate the issue. There were no further questions.

VII. Unfinished Business

Once a new chair has been elected, consideration will be given to holding some of the GFA meetings online or to scheduling fewer meetings, as necessary.

VIII. New Business

There was no new business.

IX. Announcements

The Spring Commencement will be held on Thursday, May 5, 2016 at 7 pm.

X. Adjournment

The GFA meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Adriana Cordis
Secretary