

Winthrop University Graduate Faculty Assembly

October 4, 2013

Whitton Auditorium, Carroll Hall

Minutes --- DRAFT

- I. Call to order – 3:05pm Sue Lyman

- II. Welcoming Remarks Sue Lyman
It is important for us to be proactive rather than reactive.
Thank you to Dr. Collins for being the stand-in Parliamentarian

- III. Approval of minutes of Graduate Faculty Assembly from August 16, 2013
Approved and seconded.

- IV. Report from the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Debra Boyd
We will begin to look into graduate programs and approaches that affect and help our community. Please work within your departments and programs to engage in conversations as to how to assist the community. We are frequently asked about certificates and licenses.

- V. Report from Graduate Council Jennifer Jordan
 - a. Action needed – program changes
 - i. College of Visual and Performing Arts
 1. MM-COND
 2. MM-PERF
 3. MME-MUED

- Moved, seconded and approved. Passed
 - ii. Recommended four stipulations on the petitions for extensions for the 6-year rule.

- Passed
 - b. Discussion concerning the role and responsibility of the Graduate Faculty assembly
 - i. What does it mean to be a member of the GFA?
 - ii. How do we document our service and contributions?
 - c. Discussion concerning the scheduling of GFA meetings
Graduate Council has had conversations about how to document graduate faculty service. Provost Boyd asked if Graduate Council had reviewed other universities' work in this area. Michael Lipscomb said the Council has thought about whether or not to include yet another section on the Annual Report. This may be something for the Assembly to review.

Dwight Dimaculangan questioned the need for the GFA to vote on the actions of Graduate Council, since the by-laws appear to give the authority to graduate council to make decisions. The GFA only needs to take action if they want to modify or change Graduate Council's actions.

Jennifer Jordan asked what the committee should consider and wished to open the conversation. John Bird said that attendance at Graduate Faculty Assembly might decrease if we did not follow Faculty Conference. Another option would be to meet during a common meeting time. Jennifer Jordan stated that maybe we only physically meet when there is something to discuss. Karen Kedrowski reminded the assembly that there was good attendance when the GFA met before the Faculty Conference. Maybe we need a healthy rotation of which meeting comes first. President Comstock said that we should be proud of our graduate programs. The alumni board asked to add more graduate programs and that we should take great pride in our work. The graduate faculty has her support. One of the more important things that we should do is add graduate programs.

Provost Boyd announced that we are entering a new era of our graduate programs. Programs haven't always changed to address the populations seeking them, and now programs are working to change that. As for attendance at meetings, we have had this conversation for several years. Faculty will attend when there are important things to address. If there are not, then the only people who will come are those who are deeply invested in those graduate programs. She encouraged faculty to reflect on what it means to be a graduate faculty member. We need to improve how we make distinctions between our work in undergraduate and graduate programs.

- VI. Election for the representative from the Graduate Faculty assembly to the Faculty Committee on University Priorities Anna Sartin

Nominations were asked from the floor. Nominations were moved to close and seconded. Ballots were collected.
Brent Cagle was elected.

- VII. Dean's Report Jack DeRochi
The 16 biographies of the graduate studies board can be found online.

New ideas are coming in more frequently with new energy. He encouraged faculty to continue to come up with excellent ideas.

Winthrop will be sponsoring a Segal Scholarship. Community service programs will have great applicants. We will be one of the first institutions to do this.

Graduate Council, Deans Council, Graduate Program coordinators, and Academic Leadership have reviewed the discussion on Graduate Assistance. The goal was to create a competitive package for graduate assistantships. Currently, we do not have a system that allows the Graduate School to answer the question of how many graduate assistantships are even available. The draft of the proposed system would use a stipend-heavy model rather than a heavy tuition-waiver model. The draft also had differing levels of expertise, program contributions, and student-specific development: Graduate Associate, Graduate Assistantship, Graduate Research Assistantship, Teaching Assistantship, Special Project Associate, or Graduate Student Worker. Dean DeRochi described the differences between stipends and tuition waivers and why stipends may make more financial and recruitment sense. This plan does not include other ideas such as residency halls, meal plans, etc. Two issues that have arisen are the tax implications of the stipend model as well as the discrepancy between offering Graduate Associates less than Graduate Assistantships. Dean DeRochi said those are both important issues and he plans to recommend 1) increasing the amount of the “tuition grants” to make sure all GAs benefit from the new model and 2) making the compensation the same between Associateships and Assistantships.

A question was raised about needing a financial plan when tuition will need to be paid up front. Dean DeRochi said that there may be a system to allow this to work more easily. Don Rogers stated that there should be a statement that requires candidates to register for at least 9 hours. Beth Costner said that those of us who are writing grants right now will need help with how to attend to the taxable consequences of future graduate assistants. Provost Boyd said that there are people in the Controller’s office who can answer those questions. Beth Costner also asked about how this might affect those in an internship their final semester. Dean DeRochi said that we want to set up a cohesive system. Don Rogers asked about the timeline. Dean DeRochi said that he would like to recruit to these levels by spring (14’). Dean Rakestraw asked if we are going to be recruiting to these levels, then the pot of potential money will affect the number of assistantships. She stated that we will need more lead time if we are going to have fewer assistants. Dean DeRochi asked us to think about assistantship innovations. For example, this model allows more flexibility with how we distribute our graduate assistants. Cheryl Fortner-Wood asked about summer assistantships. Dean DeRochi said that we are still working on this. Provost Boyd responded that it might help us to get our assistants through their program more quickly as well. We need to think about how we might set-up programs differently. One of the ways to help graduate students is to connect them to the undergraduate curriculum. Dean DeRochi suggested that we might even need to set requests based on these positions. Provost Boyd said that we would have a few graduate students who would qualify under SACS accreditation.

- VIII. Unfinished Business
- IX. New Business
- X. Announcements

XI. Adjournment moved and approved at 4:25pm