

# GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

*September 12, 2005*

3:00-4:30

ACC 312

### I. COMMITTEE ORIENTATION FOR 2005-06

The provost's charge to GPSC was provided to committee members in advance of the meeting, as was the committee roster, including the panel breakdown. Introductions were made.

### II. REVIEW OF CURRICULUM PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES

In his memo asking Chrislynn Freed to continue as chair of GPSC, the provost requested that she work with Thomas Cummings, chair of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Policy Committee, to develop recommendations to improve the curriculum process to empower faculty to be innovative and creative while maintaining academic rigor with regard to curriculum matters. There is some interest in devolving authority and responsibility for courses away from the central administration to the individual schools. The focus on details of syllabi seems too sharp, especially considering the lack of followup after courses are approved. This can be a concern when faculty interpret the care with which a course request is reviewed by the curriculum committees as questioning the faculty member's expertise in her/his area. UCCPC requested that GPSC representatives be invited to participate in two subcommittees, one to focus on courses and the other on programs; Sandra Howell volunteered to focus on courses and Ron Alkana on programs. GPSC members were asked to provide ideas to them between now and October 4, when the subcommittees will meet for discussion. Elizabeth Garrett, new associate vice provost for academic affairs, reported that at the recent provost retreat, the curriculum process was raised as an area in need of examination, along with UCAR and CAPP. Policies currently in place seem to be designed to restrict one or two departments that needed to be reined in, but they put all, including those not in need of such scrutiny, on watch, rather than responding to problems as they arise. In order to determine whether problems do exist, Elizabeth Garrett sent a survey to the deans of the schools, asking for information about their curriculum approval process. Another provost request of UCCPC and GPSC is to address those departments or schools with programs that are not up to par. It was pointed out that many years ago, GPSC did undertake a regular review of graduate programs, but they discontinued it when they found that no actions resulted from the review.

Ken Servis reported on the effort by Academic Records and Registrar to make the curriculum process more transparent and efficient, using workflow technology and the Student Information System.

The differences in the review processes used by UCCPC and GPSC were described. GPSC requested that the undergraduate curriculum structure be described for them. GPSC panel members were asked to provide their feedback to panel chairs earlier than in the past in order for the panel chairs to share the summary to all members before sending it to the Curriculum Coordination office.

### III. PROGRESSIVE DEGREE PROPOSAL

**APPROVED.** During the last academic year a proposal was developed to replace the current accelerated dual degree structure with one that is more flexible while maintaining rigor. The new program would make it possible for a student to combine any bachelor's degree with any master's, providing the requirements for both degrees are completed, and the deans of the academic dean and the graduate school approve it. Up to one third of the units for the master's degree can count toward both degrees. Students would apply as juniors and would need to have approved a plan of study for completion of the two degrees. Over the summer the proposal was refined, with broad representation of faculty and essential help from Cathy Thomas of financial aid. Academic deans were asked to weigh in and provide suggestions and corrections. A copy of the proposal was provided to GPSC members for review. Once this is adopted – effective Fall 2006 -- accelerated dual degrees will be terminated. Students currently in the pipeline would be allowed to finish. Jean Morrison from the Graduate School and Ken Servis, registrar, will arrange details about the process for program approval.

**Members present**

Ronald Alkana  
Hans Bozler  
Frances M. Fitzgerald (support staff)  
Chrislynn Freed (chair, GPSC)  
Judith Garner  
Elizabeth Garrett (ex-officio)  
Sandra Howell (chair, B)  
Carla Kaplan  
Julena Lind (ex-officio)  
Jean Morrison (ex-officio)  
James Ragan  
Kenneth Servis (ex-officio)  
Katherine Shing (chair, D)  
Charles Shuler  
Joshua Watson (student)  
Jennifer Wolch (ex-officio)

**Members absent**

Estela Bensimon  
Lilia Espinoza (student)  
C. Anderson Johnson (chair, A)  
Edward Maby  
Franklin R. Manis  
Bryan R. Simms

**Guests**

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Chrislynn Freed, Chair, Graduate and Professional  
Schools Committee

Date