GRADUATE POLICY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 16, 1987

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Jayne Standley, Chair
William Heard
Steve Celec
Jaaako Hintikka
Cynthia Hahn
Marie Cowart
Steve Edwards
Dianne Montgomery
Shirley Aaron
Ed McIntyre
Natholyn Harris
Sande Milton
Peggy Stillwell
Al Imershine

ALSO PRESENT:
Donna Wieckowicz
Jessie Aloi
Peter Metarko
David Levenson
Rick Jenks

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 PM. Dr. Standley introduced Dr. David Levenson, Religion Department, to present Religion's request to count elementary level language courses for graduate credit in some degree programs. Dr. Levenson requested that the GPC consider the possibility of permitting graduate students in the Religion Department who have fulfilled the College of Arts and Sciences language requirement to include 4 hours of a second language, specifically Hebrew or Greek which are 1000 level courses, and be given graduate credit. Dr. Levenson informed members that it is desirable for students who are concentrating in Biblical Studies to acquire some Hebrew or Greek as a professional tool.

Dr. Standley thanked Dr. Levenson for his presentation and opened the floor to questions. The committee asked why there was a need for graduate credit being given for these courses. Dr. Levenson responded by saying the courses are necessary and important enough to the program to award graduate credit, but that the department was trying to avoid the bureaucracy of establishing new courses at the graduate level when enrollment was low in the 1000 level courses. After a brief discussion Dr. Montgomery moved to disapprove the request that 1000 level Greek and Hebrew courses be counted as part of a graduate student's program in Religion and Humanities. The motion was seconded by Dr. Heard and passed unanimously.

Dr. Standley called upon Mrs. Jessie Aloi and Dr. Rick Jenks to present a matter of concern to the GPC regarding the TOEFL and special student status. Mrs. Aloi and Dr. Jenks reported that they have encountered numerous problems with international students who enroll under the special student status and take classes without the required TOEFL score. The University requires a TOEFL score of 550 for non-native English speakers. However, these individuals can sidestep the TOEFL requirements by finding a professor who will permit the student to take a course
as a special student. These students are often spouses of international students or transient individuals with tourist visas or residential status. These individuals are not required to give any evidence of English language proficiency and when they appear in classes as students they frequently cannot do the coursework without significant assistance. This often causes frustration to the professor, and other enrolled students in the classes and Mrs. Aloj and Dr. Jenks have received numerous complaints. The Center for Intensive English Studies requires a minimum 520 on the TOEFL for their students to be allowed to take courses as a special student. Mrs. Aloj and Dr. Jenks suggested that a similar ruling by the University would help to alleviate the problem of non-fluent special students in regular University graduate courses.

Dr. Standley opened the floor to questions. Some members suggested that educating the faculty to this problem could help. Dr. Jenks informed members that this has not worked. Dr. Hintikka felt that the international student has a lot to offer the University and that this would be just one more obstacle for them to endure. Dr. Jenks said that this policy is not directed against the international student, but to insure that these students not drop out of school because they do not understand the English language. Dr. Steve Edwards suggested that the GPC look into this situation and possibly adopt a more stringent policy covering these cases.

Dr. Montgomery moved that the University require a minimum TOEFL score of 520 for international students who wish to enroll under the special student status in graduate classes. Motion was seconded by Dr. Imershine. Motion passed with a vote of 10 yes and 3 no.

Dr. Standley questioned the committee regarding Dr. Edward's suggestion of setting up some guidelines covering the 520 TOEFL requirements by possibly appointing a subcommittee to study the issue. Dr. Hintikka moved that further study be required. Motion seconded by Dr. Imershine.

Dr. Standley informed members that along with her, Jessie Aloj and Russell Johansen would write up some guidelines and present them to the GPC for further review.

Dr. Standley presented the 1/26/87 and 2/2/87 minutes to the committee for approval. The committee approved the minutes as written.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM.