

**GRADUATE POLICY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
November 8, 2004**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

George Bates, Chair, Biology  
Dianne Harrison, Graduate Studies  
Leonard "Chick" LaPointe, Communication  
Jim Orcutt, Social Sciences  
John Geringer, Music  
Steve Pfeiffer, Education  
Kathleen Erndl, Religion  
Lee Stepina, Business  
Bettye Ann Case, Mathematics  
Dianne Speake, Nursing  
Flip Froelich, Oceanography  
David Johnson, English  
Jeff Bush, Student Representative  
Steven Pfeiffer, Education  
Eliza Dresang, Information Studies  
Elizabeth Platt, Education  
Mary Karen Dahl, Theatre

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Kamal Tawfiq  
Ruth Feiock  
Jennifer Buchanan  
(for Anne Rowe)  
C. J. Chen  
Raj Arora  
Barbara Johnson  
Damian Nastri  
Judy Devine  
Althea Jenkins  
Isaac Wooten  
Robert Bradley  
Melanie Booker  
Lisa Beverly

The meeting was called to order at 3:42pm by Dr. Bates. Dr. Bates presented for approval the minutes from the 10/25/2004 meeting. The minutes were approved.

Dr. Bates introduced Damian Nastri, Speaker of the Congress of Graduate Students (COGS), who asked to address the committee regarding the possibility of graduate student representation on the FSU Faculty Senate. It was pointed out that this is an issue that can only be approved by the Faculty Senate. It was also noted that many standing committees of the Faculty Senate have student representation. The floor was opened to Mr. Nastri.

Mr. Nastri reported that the subject was brought before the general Faculty Senate over one year ago. A study of 45 peer institutions was conducted. Of those reviewed, 84% are Research I institutions and 91% are public institutions. Mr. Nastri stated that 93% of those peer level institutions have student representatives on the faculty senate. FSU does not have this policy. Mr. Nastri brought the proposal before the GPC as it is the committee that recommends policy to strengthen graduate education of FSU, which is part of the mission statement of FSU.

The report evaluated the criteria for student participation in faculty senates at other institutions. At FSU, graduate students are allowed to attend faculty senate meetings as visitors. The GPC has been accommodating to COGS concerns. Mr. Nastri reminded the committee that the FSU mission is to promote graduate research and graduate education. Mr. Nastri pointed out that there are more graduate assistants than faculty members and that graduate assistants teach one in four courses at FSU.

Dr. Bates opened the floor to discussion. It was reported that currently COGS is the only representation for graduate students at FSU. Mr. Nastri remarked that COGS would like to work with the Faculty Senate to address graduate student issues. Mr. Nastri suggested that the Student Government Association (SGA) does not truly represent the graduate students since there are 85 SGA representatives and 70 of those are undergraduate students. He explained that graduate students undertake the roles of faculty, staff and students and offer a different perspective.

Mr. Nastri reported that some departments have graduate student representation within the department and others do not. COGS would like to have uniformity on the campus and feels that representation on the Faculty Senate would provide this uniformity. The perception of why the Faculty Senate did not accept the proposal last year was in part due to reluctance to change the FSU constitution.

A **motion** was made by Dr. Dresang and **seconded** by Dr. Platt to accept the following recommendation which reads:

The Graduate Policy Committee expresses its support of student representation on the Faculty Senate.

The vote was ten (10) for, two (2) opposed and four (4) abstained. **The motion passed.**

**Other Business:** Dean Harrison reminded the GPC about the RCR course beginning in Spring 2004. Faculty are being sought to lead one one-hour discussion group.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

Next meeting: November 29 at 3:40p.m. in 201 WES.