

**GRADUATE POLICY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
April 24, 2000**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Karen Laughlin, Chair, English
Alan Mabe, Graduate Studies
Steve Edwards, Dean of Faculties
Stuart Baker, Theatre
Linda Vinton, Social Work
Gary Heald, Communication
Jack Fiorito, Business
Gloria Grizzle, Public Admin.
Elizabeth Platt, Education
Emily Haymes, Human Sci.
George Bates, Biology
Jarrett Oeltjen, Law
Tom Vickers, Chemistry
Laurie Grubbs, Nursing
Vall Richard Auzenne, Film
Bill Landing, Oceanography
Myron Gluck, Info. Studies

ALSO PRESENT:

Donna Wieckowicz
Ann Durham
John Myles
Angela Lupo-Anderson
Jim Bell
Bruce Bickley
Marie Cowart

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 P.M. Ms. Laughlin called upon Mr. Myles to present the report on the doctoral review in Political Science. Mr. Myles reported that the program is well administered with morale, collegiality, and intellectual community among both faculty and students, being consistently high. Mr. Dale Smith, Chair of Political Science, added that the program plans to raise the stipend levels for next year and advised the GPC that he concurs with the results of the subcommittee's report. He emphasized that every faculty member is a strong contributor to the department's graduate program.

The floor was opened to questions. Questions concerning graduate stipend levels and turnover of faculty were raised. Mr. Smith responded by saying that the present stipend is \$9600 and will be raised next year to \$10,000. However, to become competitive with other universities Political Science needs to offer stipends in the range of \$12,000-\$13,000 a year. Mr. Smith informed the GPC that high turnover rates can be attributed to faculty leaving for higher paying positions at other universities, and faculty retiring. Presently one faculty member is in phased retirement and another in the DROP program.

Recommendations:

It was **moved** by Mr. Heald and **seconded** by Ms. Auzenne to accept recommendation 1 which reads:

That the program in Political Science be continued and enhanced.

Rationale:

The program should continue to focus on, and build upon, its nationally recognized strengths in quantitative research. In recent years the department has also built up some strength in formal theory. Continued development of this field would greatly enhance the department's competitiveness and reputation and mesh well with its current emphasis on quantitative analysis.

Passed

It was **moved** by Mr. Bates and **seconded** by Ms. Auzenne to accept the first part of recommendation 2, section A, which reads:

A. An increase in faculty size with a long-term goal of 28 faculty considered to be the desirable target.

It was suggested by the committee that the priorities of the college and University be added to this recommendation. Section A now reads:

In keeping with College and University priorities, it is recommended that there be an increase in faculty size with a long-term goal of 28 faculty considered to be the desirable target.

Passed

Prior to approving section B of this recommendation the committee agreed that the college and University priority statement be added to part B of this recommendation and as part of recommendations 3 and 6.

It was **moved** by Mr. Baker and **seconded** by Ms. Platt to accept recommendation 2, part B as reworded.

B. An increase in the size of entry level cohorts is recommended, with an additional 3 to 5 graduate positions funded annually, **in keeping with College and University priorities**.

Passed

It was **moved** by Mr. Bates and **seconded** by Mr. Vickers to accept recommendation 3 as reworded.

Consideration should be given to making some future appointments at the full and /or associate level, **in keeping with College and University priorities**.

Rationale: This recommendation is made in view of the age and rank structure of the department.

Passed

It was **moved** by Mr. Vickers and **seconded** by Ms. Platt to accept recommendation 4, which reads.

It is recommended that the department create a strategic plan as a means of facilitating any future expansion.

Passed

It was **moved** by Mr. Vickers and **seconded** by Ms. Grizzle to accept recommendation 5, which reads:

In keeping with College and University priorities, the Committee recommends that the College and University provide additional financial resources to assist with retention of the department's most production faculty.

Rationale:

Retention of nationally recognized scholars is typically more cost effective and more likely to be successful than external recruitment of scholars of similar stature.

The Committee asked if the program could explain the reason for faculty retention problems. Mr. Smith responded by saying that within the last few years the program has lost 12 faculty members to other highly regarded programs at universities that offer higher salaries. He felt that this would be a useful recommendation.

Passed

It was **moved** by Ms. Haymes and **seconded** by Mr. Bates to accept recommendation 6 as reworded:

In keeping with College and University priorities, the committee recommends that graduate stipends should be raised immediately by \$2,500 and raised sufficiently in future years to make the department nationally competitive with top peer institutions.

The committee discussed specifying the amount of \$2,500 and felt the recommendation should reflect the amount needed for this year and then be raised in future years. The committee also felt the last part of the sentence should be removed as it is not essential to the recommendation. The committee agreed the recommendation should read as amended.

In keeping with College and University priorities, it is recommended that graduate stipends be raised immediately to **\$12,500**, and raised sufficiently in future years to make the department nationally competitive.

Passed

It was **moved** by Ms. Auzenne and **seconded** by Ms. Platt to accept recommendation 7, which reads:

The department should take steps to bring computer equipment and software up to standards that are more appropriate for a graduate program emphasizing intensive quantitative data analysis.

Passed

It was **moved** by Mr. Bates and **seconded** by Ms. Platt to accept recommendation 8, which reads:

To help increase intellectual community and, especially, national visibility, the department would benefit from inviting several nationally prominent guest faculty lectures each term as part of its Friday Colloquium series.

Passed

It was **moved** by Mr. Landing and **accepted** by Ms. Auzenne to accept recommendation 9, which reads:

The Department of Political Science does agree with the concerns of doctoral students that the preliminary examination, dissertation-writing, and graduation schedules are accelerated and that a five-year program would be preferable. The Committee recommends that the department pursue this objective once the immediate priorities of recruiting additional graduate students and raising stipends have been met.

The committee requested clarification of this recommendation. Mr. Myles responded by saying that this was a concern of the graduate students who voiced concern over the process being too rushed.

Passed

It was **moved** by Ms. Platt and **seconded** by Ms. Auzenne to accept recommendation 10 which reads:

It is recommended that the doctoral directive status of the following faculty be continued: Burton Atkins, Charles Barrilleaux, William Berry, William Claggett, Scott Flanagan, Henry Glick, HeeMin Kim, Will Moore, Glenn Parker, Evan Ringquist, and Dale Smith.

The committee inquired about the productivity of the faculty. Mr. Smith informed the committee that some faculty have not been as productive in the

last five years, but they have had nationally known and productive careers in the field. He felt that the DDS of these faculty should be continued based on their contributions to the program's visibility. Some will be retiring in a few years. The Committee also noted the absence of women faculty at the senior level. Mr. Smith acknowledged this but noted that, overall, half of the recently hired assistant professors in the department are women.

Passed with one no vote.

Ms. Laughlin then called upon Mr. Jim Bell, School of Theatre, to brief the committee on their request to waive the GRE requirement for admission of students in selected graduate programs. She reminded the committee that Theatre brought this request to the GPC in January and was instructed by the GPC to provide the committee with more information concerning what the school would consider as an alternative to the test; provide data showing those institutions that do not require the GRE; provide data to support their arguments about the GRE as a measure of quality for graduate school applicants; and specify what Theatre would consider as an alternative to the GRE. This additional information was distributed to the GPC in advance of this meeting. Mr. Bell reported that the request to waive the GRE would involve the areas of acting, costume design, lighting design, scenic design, technical production, and directing, and explained the alternate, yet equivalent, admission criteria that would be involved for each area. In order for the GRE to be waived the student must have a 3.0 or better GPA in all work attempted while registered as an upper division student working for a baccalaureate degree. Mr. Bell stressed that the MA/MS and PhD programs in Theatre would continue to require the GRE. He further explained that the GRE requirement hinders the program's recruiting efforts. He added that the test doesn't reliably predict success in the theatre arts. These programs rely on auditions, portfolios, and other artistic measures, along with the applicants meeting the required GPA for admission.

After a brief discussion it was **moved** by Mr. Heald and **seconded** by Ms. Auzenne to allow Theatre to waive the GRE for admission in the areas of acting, costume design, lighting design, scenic design, technical production, and directing if the student has a 3.0 or better GPA in all work attempted while registered as an upper division student working for a baccalaureate degree.

Passed with one no vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10.