

GRADUATE POLICY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
October 27, 2003

MEMBERS PRESENT:

George Bates, Chair, Biology
Dianne Harrison, Graduate Studies
Leonard “Chick” LaPointe, Communication
Bettye Anne Case, Math
Tom Hart, Information Studies
Tricia Young, Dance
Mary Karen Dahl, Theatre
John Geringer, Music
David Johnson, English
Gary Kleck, Criminology
Jack Fiorito, Business
Lee Stepina, Business
David Pargman, Education
Anne Rowe, Dean of Faculties
Andrew Payer, College of Medicine
Flip Froelich, Oceanography
Elizabeth Platt, Education
John Sobanjo, Engineering
Kathleen Erndl, Religion
Emily Haymes, Nutrition

ALSO PRESENT:

Judith Devine, Graduate Studies
Ruth Feiock, Graduate Studies
Janice Finney, Admissions
Frederick “Fritz” Davis, History
Neil Jumonville, History
Russ Dancy, Philosophy
Michael Ruse, Philosophy
George Weaver, Arts and Sciences
Melanie Booker, Admissions
Jeanne Flannery, Nursing
Carolyn Herrington, Education
David Foulk, Health Education
Mary Sutherland, Health Education
Lisa Beverly, Graduate Studies

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Bates at 3:35 P.M. Mr. Bates provided an overview of the agenda. Then, Mr. Bates introduced Janice Finney and Melanie Booker from the Office of Admissions, who provided information in the form of a handout on provisional student status.

At the April 7, 2003 meeting of the GPC, a motion was passed that provisional students be required to take a minimum of nine (9) credit hours per semester and have a GPA of 3.0 or above. It was noted by Ms. Finney that this policy poses a difficulty for distance learning students who are only taking one course, while trying to gain regular student status. Currently, departments have to grant an exception to these students. For students who do not meet the BOE requirement, the strictest interpretation of the current bulletin excludes state workers and part-time distance learning students. The Office of Admissions felt that the GPC should evaluate the current policy. The policy as written in the current Graduate Bulletin states, “A provisional graduate student who does not meet the State Board of Education requirements must take at least 9 semester hours of graduate level course work, excluding S/U courses, during the semester on provisional status and must earn a 3.0 average on all graduate work in order to be admitted to regular graduate status.”

The floor was opened for questions and discussion. The current 9 hour requirement for provisional students is intended for students who did not meet regular admissions requirements. Those students must enroll for the minimum full-time requirement (9 hours) on a “trial basis.”

This was established prior to the creation of online programs. Students who demonstrate academic capability in a full-time schedule for one semester are removed from provisional status.

It was suggested that these students be required to take two semesters for three (3) semester hours of provisional status. It was stated that a very small percentage of students are in this category. Dean Harrison offered to have the Office of Graduate Studies process the requests from these students. If the number of these requests from students becomes too large, then the process would be reassessed. It was also suggested that students be allowed to have two semesters of provisional status.

It was **moved** by Mr. Geringer and **seconded** by Mr. Froelich to adopt the following solution suggested by the Office of Admissions (noted as #3 on the Admissions handout): “A provisional graduate student who does not meet the State Board of Education requirements must take at least 9 semester hours of graduate level course work, excluding S/U courses, during the semester on provisional status and must earn a 3.0 average on all graduate work in order to be admitted to regular graduate status. The Dean of Graduate Studies may approve exceptions. Academic departments or programs are required to provide justification for exception requests to the Dean of Graduate Studies.”

Passed

Meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.