

**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.