

# 135

**GRADUATE POLICY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 16, 1987**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jayne Standley, Chair  
William Heard  
Steve Celec  
Jaakko 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 Aloï  
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 Aloï and Dr. Rick Jenks to present a matter of concern to the GPC regarding the TOEFL and special student status. Mrs. Aloï 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. Aloï 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. Aloï 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 Aloï and Russell Johnsen 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.