

**GRADUATE POLICY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
February 27, 2012**

**The following members were present:** David Johnson, English, Chair; Nancy Marcus, Dean, The Graduate School; Jamila Horabin, Biomedical Science; Gerrie Houlihan, Visual Arts; Marc Gertz, Criminology; Nancy Everhart, Communication and Information; Karla Schmitt, Nursing; William Fredrickson, Music; Rick Feiock, Social Sciences and Public Policy; Eric Chicken, Statistics; Jeffrey Milligan, Education; Brian Gaber, Film/Music

**The following members were absent:** Bob Pekurny, Communication and Information; Elizabeth Burch, Law; Patricia Born, Business; Stanley Gontarski, Arts and Sciences; Sudhir Aggarwal, Computer Science; Rodney Roberts, Engineering; Tomi Gomory, Social Work; Jasminka Ilich-Ernst, Human Sciences; Ike Eberstein, Sociology; Ron Doel, Arts and Sciences; Young-Suk Kim, Education; Bong-Soo Lee, Business

**Also present:** Colin Creasy, The Graduate School; Judy Devine, The Graduate School; Jennifer Buchanan, Dean of the Faculties; Andy Wang, Computer Science

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 P.M by David Johnson, Chair.

**Approval of Fall 2011 Meeting Minutes** – With no changes, the minutes were entered into the record.

**Faculty Steering Committee proposed policy changes** – Dr. Johnson began by informing the GPC that he was still waiting on the Steering Committee to address the previous semester’s plagiarism policy proposal.

Dr. Johnson read the proposed edits to the GPC Conflict of Interest policy as made by the Faculty Steering Committee:

*A supervisory committee's judgments on the quality of a student's thesis or dissertation should be based solely on the academic merits of the work before them. Any other standard risks a breach of professional ethics or policy and undermines the integrity of the process and those involved. Any personal or financial relationships (e.g. involving the major professor, committee members, and/or student) must be avoided. This would not include the typical practice of hiring a student on a university assistantship in the home unit, but would for example include the student being hired by the major professor's private company. If any such conflicts of interest could exist, they should be reported to the administrative head of the student's academic unit, who will evaluate same for potential harm and take appropriate action.*

Dr. Schmitt questioned the change from “if any such conflicts do exist” to “if any such conflicts could exist.” Dr. Johnson explained that this makes the policy stronger, noting that the Steering Committee was divided on making this change or leaving it as proposed by the GPC. Dean Buchanan agreed that the change appeared to make the policy stronger.

Dr. Johnson pointed out that the deletion of the clause “that may create the perception of bias in that process” was in disservice of the policy. Dr. Gertz wondered if the Steering Committee might accept a compromise in which all other changes are accepted but this clause remained intact.

**It was moved by Dr. Gertz and seconded by Dr. Schmitt to accept the proposed policy which reads:**

**A supervisory committee's judgments on the quality of a student's thesis or dissertation should be based solely on the academic merits of the work before them. Any other standard risks a breach of professional ethics or policy and undermines the integrity of the process and those involved. Any personal or financial relationships (e.g. involving the major professor, committee members, and/or student) that may create the perception of bias in that process must be avoided. This would not include the typical practice of hiring a student on a university assistantship in the home unit, but would for example include the student being hired by the major professor's private company. If any such conflicts of interest could exist, they should be reported to the administrative head of the student's academic unit, who will evaluate same for potential harm and take appropriate action.**

**Passed**

Dr. Johnson continued by explaining that the Faculty Steering Committee was concerned with the proposed temporary Graduate Teaching Status policy change and its impact on tenure track faculty. He explained that the committee questioned whether or not non-tenure track instructors might be given graduate courses instead of tenure track professors.

Dean Marcus explained the various levels of graduate status, the permissions that come with each, and what job codes/ranks are eligible to apply for them. She also presented the GPC with a report of all current instructors with “Visiting in Lieu of Adjunct” classifications who were approved to teach one or more graduate level classes and explained that the number (57) was not an excessive number of temporary employees with GTS. She explained that the bulk of these instructors were employed in programs (such as Education) that were more practice oriented than others.

Dr. Johnson explained that he would return to the Faculty Steering Committee with this information and inform them that this is not a threat to tenure track instructors.

**With no new business to be presented, Dr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 4:10 P.M.**