

**Minutes Of Graduate Council Meeting
November 30, 2007**

Present: Laurel Garrick Duhaney (Dean), Kevin Casey, Liz Hester, Dan Kempton, Gweneth Lloyd, Jan McLaurin, Bernadette Morris, Jon Raskin (Presiding Officer), Anat Shifan, Jane Sileo.

On leave: Debra Miller

Guest: Vika Shock

1. The minutes from the meeting of November 9th were approved.

2. Announcements:

- As per previous discussions regarding change of course number, Bernadette Morris reported that course numbers cannot be changed because of the confusion it may cause on transcript.
- Laurel Garrick Duhaney announced that on April 11-15, 2008, NCATE will be conducting a site visit at the School of Education.
- Laurel Garrick Duhaney ask that department representatives ask their respective departments to examine the data regarding the number of students in the program relative to the number of applicants. Additionally departments need to discuss and determine the kind of data needed so department specific data block/report may be designed by Argos.

Old Business:

- Question was raised for clarification regarding the 'repeat course' option. Bernadette Morris indicated that when a repeatable course is repeated simply to raise the grade it becomes problematic. Extensive discussion ensued regarding including or excluding course withdrawal involving 'repeat grading.'
- Vickar gave example of how the MBA program 'replace' grading policy is managed in their foundation courses. Kevin Casey suggested that the council may need to consider an 'exempt' status for the MBA program on this issue.
- The minimum grade acceptable for graduate work generated much discussion and varying opinions on the issue. Some of the key points of the discussion include questions regarding whether a 'C' or 'D' grade should be accepted, skewing of grades which may lead to grade inflation and the relationship between SEI and rigorousness of course.

- Laurel Garrick Duhaney contextualized the need for setting a clear grading policy. She encouraged council members to initiate and pursue meaningful discussion in their departments on the issue at hand. Jon Raskin stated that our grading policy should have larger implications regarding impact on the public audience.
- Dan Kampton questioned whether each department can set its own grading policy.
- It was suggested that this issue should be placed on the agenda of our next meeting for further discussion.
- Jan McLaurin suggested a series of interdepartmental forums be held for discussion of this issue.

Agenda items b. (Graduate Students Association) and c. (“No shows” and \$100 deposits) was suspended due to time factor.

Item d. ((New Course Proposal) was discussed. Both courses presented ARH546 Surrealism (Department of Art History) and ARS771 New Media/3D+D (Department of Art) were approved pending minor revisions.

Laurel Garrick Duhaney emphasized the need for consistency between course syllabus and catalogue course descriptions. She reminded Council that course syllabi constitute part of the program proposals sent to SUNY Central Administration and New York State Education Department. Congruence between the course descriptions on syllabi and the descriptions in the course master is essential and reduces/eliminates potential time spent in aligning these. Laurel also thanked everyone for their contribution to the council particularly the members of the Graduate Students Research and Creative Projects Award committee: Jan McLaurin, Anat Shiftan, Barbara Chorzempa, and Karen Bell.

Item e. (Draft Thesis Guidelines) and f. (Research and Creative Projects Award) were skipped.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25.

Respectfully submitted by Gweneth M. Lloyd