

## GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

**CHAired BY:** David S. Chapman                      **TIME:** 3:00 pm  
**DATE:** February 23, 2009                      **PLACE:** 300 Park Building

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ann Marie Breznay, Nicki Camp, Darrell Davis, Martha Eining, Julie Fritz, Paolo Gondolo, Kevin Rathunde, Jay Mace, John Martinez, John McDonnell, Pat Murphy, Mary Jane Taylor, Patrick Tresco

**EX OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT:** David Chapman, Graduate School; Fred Rhodewalt, Nancy Nickman , Graduate School; Ed Barbanell, Undergraduate Council

**EXCUSED:** Sally Planalp, Robert Young

### **FINAL AGENDA**

**1. Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of the January 26, 2009 meeting were approved unanimously as distributed.

**2. Student Course Evaluation Working Group**

Jim Anderson, President Elect of the Academic Senate, led a team presentation of the findings of the Student Course Evaluation Working Group. The proposed outcomes for this working group are to change the culture of course evaluations, to provide excellence in teaching and in learning, and to enable students to make better choices in selecting classes. The data from the revised evaluation format will be available for use in the RPT process and for student use in selecting instructors and classes. Feedback was provided by members of the Graduate Council such as having the data span several years rather than one semester, giving composite scores for both graduate level courses as well as for undergraduate classes, and finding a way to deal with courses for which “staff” is listed as the instructor.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Voiced appreciation for the presentation and requested that the members be updated on the progress of the working group.

**3. Proposal to create a new Center for Ecosystem and Global Change Sciences in the Department of Biology**

James Ehleringer, Professor, Department of Biology

The motion to untable this proposal from the November 2008 meeting was unanimous. (13 yeas 0 nays)

James Ehleringer presented the revised proposal to create a new Center for Ecosystem and Global Change Sciences. The new proposal addressed the issues raised by the Council in November. The model for administration was amplified, and the issues of stipends and long-term funding plans were addressed. Clarification was made about the role the graduate students from the Center would have on impacting science education in Utah.

**ACTION TAKEN:**

**Motion:** Table the proposal

**Vote:** Approved unanimously (12 yeas 0 nays)

**Action:** Inform the Department of Biology that the proposal should address several additional areas, be rewritten, and submitted for approval at the March meeting.

**4. Proposal to create a joint degree Master of Business Administration and Master of Science in Chemical Engineering**

Jennifer Jones, Academic Advisor, Department of Chemical Engineering, and Gordon Smith, David Eccles School of Business, presented the proposal for a joint degree Master of Business Administration and a Master of Science in Chemical Engineering. This joint degree provides the entrepreneurial piece as well as engineering expertise in one degree.

**ACTION TAKEN:**

**Motion:** Approve the proposal

**Vote:** Approved (12 yeas and 1 abstention)

**Action:** Inform the David Eccles School of Business and the College of Chemical Engineering of the Graduate Council's decision to approve the proposal. The proposal will be forwarded to the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs for transmittal to the Academic Senate.

**5. Proposal to create a joint degree Master of Business Administration and Master of Science in Computer Science**

Eric Brunvand, Associate Professor, Computer Science, and Gordon Smith, David Eccles School of Business presented the proposal for a joint degree Master of Business Administration and a Master of Science in Computer Science. Dr. Brunvand emphasized the importance of the entrepreneurial aspect as well as the numbers of engineering students who are enrolled in the MBA programs.

**ACTION TAKEN:**

**Motion:** Approve the proposal

**Vote:** Approved (12 yeas and 1 abstention)

**Action:** Inform the David Eccles School of Business and the School of Computing of the Graduate Council's decision to approve the proposal. The proposal will be forwarded to the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs for transmittal to the Academic Senate.

**6. Proposal to create a joint degree Master of Business Administration and Master of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering**

Marc Bodson, Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Gordon Smith, David Eccles School of Business presented the proposal for a joint degree Master of Business Administration and a Master of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering. Dr. Bodson expressed his belief that students would enroll in the joint program who would not otherwise enroll.

**ACTION TAKEN:**

**Motion:** Approve the proposal

**Vote:** Approved (12 yeas and 1 abstention)

**Action:** Inform the David Eccles School of Business and the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering of the Graduate Council's decision to approve the proposal. The proposal will be forwarded to the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs for transmittal to the Academic Senate.

## **7. Graduate Council Review for the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders**

John McDonnell, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee, presented the Graduate Council review of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

Challenges for the department are: first to develop a Ph.D. program, second to develop research opportunities, and third to recruit underrepresented students. It was noted that from 2005 – 2007, the number of students in the B.S. and B.A. programs dropped by 33%. No reasons were given. The students interviewed are generally satisfied; however, there should be greater linkage between the clinical programs and the didactic programs.

### **ACTION TAKEN:**

**Motion:** Approve the review as amended

**Vote:** Approved unanimously (13 yeas)

**Action:** The revised report will be sent to the Department Chair and the Dean to check for any factual errors. The report will be discussed at the wrap-up meeting (in attendance: Senior Vice President for Health Sciences, Dean of the College of Health, Chair of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, and the Dean and Associate Dean of the Graduate School as facilitators). Following the wrap-up meeting, a Memorandum of Understanding will be prepared by the Associate Dean of the Graduate School. Both the report and the Memorandum of Understanding will be sent to the Senior Vice President for Health Sciences for transmittal to the Academic Senate.

## **8. Meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm**