

Graduate Council Minutes
October 25, 2006

The North Georgia College & State University Graduate Council met on Wednesday, October 25, 2006, in room 120 of the Health and Natural Science Building. Present were council members Donna Gessell (Chair), Jill Brady (for Jason Pruitt), Harrison Davis, Leslie Davis (student representative), Barry Friedman, Bob Laird, Grace Newsome, and Shane Webb. Also present were Drs. Tanya Bennett, Michael Bodri, Steve Brehe, and Joyce Stavick and Dana Turner.

Dr. Gessell welcomed all members and then directed members' attention to the minutes for the Graduate Council meeting September 13.

Dana Turner explained to members the new Higher One Card which will become effective Spring 2007 for use by students to receive any refunds or financial aid awards from their BANNER student accounts. All students registered for an upcoming semester will be mailed a card that they will need to access in order to determine the method by which they want to receive their NGCSU refunds, financial aid, etc. The Business Office will no longer issue checks to students for class refunds and financial aid. Anyone with any questions is encouraged to contact the Business Office.

Next, Dr. Tanya Bennett, English Department, sought approval for a new graduate course ENGL 6020: Introduction to English Linguistics. On a motion by Dr. Friedman, second by Dr. Laird, the course was approved with one minor correction.

Under old business, Dr. Davis reported to the council that the committee formed to make a recommendation as to whether or not the Graduate Faculty policy needed to be revised met on October 16. The committee determined that a terminal degree is not always necessary for specific fields and that experience or expertise could be used for basis of appointment and that all nominations should be sent to Graduate Studies for either the Director of Graduate Studies approval or Graduate Council's approval. After reviewing other university system's processes, it was discovered that they all had a body or individual that approved the recommendation beyond that of the department's approval. The committee will continue to meet to formulate a recommendation for policy to address the issue.

Next, under old business, Dr. Friedman reported to the council on his background research for the proposed new graduate policy for a second master's degree requirements. On a move to adopt, second by Dr. Laird, discussion was opened on the proposed policy. After considerable discussion, Dr. Friedman withdrew the proposal, and on a proposal to postpone by Dr. Laird, second by Dr. Davis, the proposal is postponed. A subcommittee consisting of Drs. Friedman, Bodri, Gessell, and Laird was formed to continue formulating this proposal.

Dr. Davis then sought guidance from the council on a revised procedure policy to be used by Community Counseling for reviewing student competency outside of academics. It was suggested the procedures be reviewed during a lunch meeting consisting of Drs. Davis, Fletcher, Laird, Newsome, Gessell, and Friedman.

Next, Dr. Gessell informed members that the Committee to Review Policies in the Graduate Bulletin consists of Drs. Badger, Fletcher, Friedman, and that committee will begin reviewing graduate policies for make any recommendations for revisions/changes to the council.

Dr. Gessell was asked by Dr. Roberts-Betch to inform graduate program coordinators that when hiring graduate assistants to make it clear in the proposal to the student whether or not the mandatory health insurance required for all graduate assistants is included in the student's work agreement offer, and if so, the payment would need to come from the department's budget.

Next, Dr. Laird sought approval for a graduate policy for clinical/adjunct status. On a motion by Dr. Newsome, second by Dr. Friedman, the proposed policy was approved.

Announcements

- Prerequisites have been dropped for courses in the Special Ed MED and MPA which should help students with registration.
- The Director of Graduate Studies' signature is no longer needed on graduate students' plans of study. Transfer of any credits and transient permission forms should continue to be submitted for approval by Graduate Studies.
- The Graduate Student Senate is working on this and next years' budget and has had good representation from all graduate programs.
- The PT students will have a car wash at the Auto-Zone, Saturday, October 28, to benefit local resident Brooke Walker.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.