

Graduate Council  
Minutes  
September 13, 2006

The North Georgia College & State University Graduate Council met on Wednesday, September 13, 2006, at 12:10 pm, in Room 119 of the Health & Natural Science Building. Present were council members Donna Gessell (chair), James Badger, Larry Berneking, Susan Brandenburg-Ayres, Harrison Davis, Leslie Davis (student representative), Barry Friedman, Bob Laird, Linda Roberts-Betch, and Linda Williams. Also present were Drs. Toni Barnett and Georgia Mann.

Dr. Gessell welcomed all members for the first meeting of the new academic year and explained because of changes from the Committee on Committees Dr. Shane Webb would probably be the graduate faculty senator appointed (this was confirmed later that day), and Dr. Linda Williams is replacing Dr. Austenfeld as faculty member representing departments without graduate programs. She then introduced Ms. Leslie Davis as the new student representative, and Dr. Friedman commented on Ms. Davis' excellent work with the Graduate Student Senate.

Attention was then directed to the minutes from the Graduate Council meeting March 23, 2006, which were approved with three minor changes (corrected minutes attached).

Then, Dr. Toni Barnett, Nursing Department, brought before the council two new graduate courses for council approval - NURS 7000: Independent Study in Graduate Nursing, which on a motion by Dr. Berneking, second by Dr. Williams, was approved; and NURS 6000: Selected Topics in Nursing, which on a motion by Dr. Laird, second by Dr. Davis, was also approved. Both courses were approved for Summer 2007 semester.

Next, Dr. Georgia Mann, History Department, sought approval for a new graduate course HIST 6232: World War I. After some discussion regarding final exams required for graduate courses, on a motion by Dr. Friedman, second by Dr. Williams, the course was approved which will be amended to require the Deans' approval for exemption for the final exam or to include a final exam for the course to be effective Fall 2006.

Dr. Georgia Mann then sought approval for another new course at the graduate level HIST 6360: Modern Germany. After some discussion regarding SACS requirements for course syllabus, on a motion by Dr. Davis, second by Dr. Berneking, the course was approved with recommended revisions in the syllabus and also pending Deans' Council approval. The course is to be effective Summer 2007.

Next on the agenda under New Business, Dr. Gessell distributed a proposal for adding certificates awarded for students in Nursing Education and the FNP program which would be added on NGCSU's official transcripts under the comment section. Dr. Berneking commented that Teacher Education may want to add the EdL certificate as well. With a motion by Dr. Berneking, second by Dr. Friedman, the proposal was

approved. Graduate programs wanting to add certificates awarded by individual programs should submit this information to the Registrar's Office.

Next on the agenda under new business, Dr. Gessell informed council members of a need for a bylaws amendment for the Graduate Council which incorporates language that reinforces the alignment of Graduate policies with governing external agencies. On a motion by Dr. Laird, second by Dr. Davis, the amendment was approved and will be brought forward to Faculty Senate.

Then, Dr. Gessell asked the council if the Graduate Faculty Status and Graduate Faculty Criteria policies should be reviewed in current SACS criteria to include more oversight. After some discussion, a subcommittee was formed consisting of Drs. Williams, Davis, Laird, and Newsome with Dr. Williams convening the first subcommittee meeting.

Next, Dr. Gessell asked council for input on a double master's degree at NGCSU and what the requirements would be. Following discussion, it was determined that Drs. Gessell and Friedman would research Board of Regents' policy and report back to the council.

Also, Dr. Gessell suggested to the council that the policies currently in the Graduate Bulletin should be reviewed to ensure accurate steps in procedures, wording, etc. Dr. Badger has agreed to work with a subcommittee, which will be appointed at the next Graduate Council meeting.

#### Announcements

- Graduate Studies has eliminated the NGCSU "Withdrawal from the Institution" form for all graduating graduate students (this was effective Summer 2006), and undergraduates will follow suit this semester.
- Health insurance is now required for certain graduate students and optional health insurance is also available, both through Pearce & Pearce, Inc. The forms are available through Graduate Studies and the Business Office.
- Leslie Davis encouraged all graduate programs to discuss student representation from the graduate programs and to try to get three representatives from each program to commit even if attendance at all meetings is not possible. The meetings are at 6:00 pm (day to be announced) in the HNS Building.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm.