

**Winthrop University Graduate Faculty Assembly**  
Minutes, March 7, 2014 --- *DRAFT*  
(Following the Faculty Conference) Kinard Auditorium

- I. Call to Order at 4:22pm
- II. Welcoming Remarks Jennifer Jordan
- III. Approval of Minutes of Graduate Faculty Assembly from November 22, 2013. The minutes were sent out with the agenda.
- IV. Report from Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Debra Boyd
- V. Report from the Graduate Council Jennifer Jordan  
Jennifer Jordan raised issue regarding the timing and participation of Graduate Faculty Assembly meetings. Graduate Council discussing multiple solutions including electronic voting on curricula, limiting the number of GFA meetings, as well as integrating GFA items within the business of Faculty Conference. There was much discussion about this, as well has how to improve electronic voting and editing the GFA bylaws to allow for electronic voting as an integral component of GFA governance. Graduate Council will continue to revisit this issue and examine potential of GFA meeting at common meeting times.

Course Actions

Course Actions for six new courses were brought forth for information – no GFA Vote required

- DCED 591 – Principles of Teaching Dance
- DCED 592 – Field Experience in Teaching Dance (1:0:8)
- HIST502 – Social Movements in the United States Since the 1960s
- PEAC502 – Historical and Cultural Study of Selected Social Movements in the United States Since the 1960s
- THED 591 – Principles of Teaching Theatre (3:3:0)
- THED 592 – Field Experience in Teaching Theatre (1:0:8)

New Programs

Two new program actions were approved by electronic election on March 26, 2014. Given the ambiguity of GFA's current bylaws, GFA voted in person as well to approve the following new programs:

- Graduate Certificate in CSDV—School Counseling
- Graduate Certificate in Management

### Other Program Actions

GFA vote required. Motion from Graduate Council to approve two program modifications  
(Deferred by electronic ballot request for discussion at the March 7 GFA meeting)

#### **1. Modify MAT-5 Program to add more options for theatre and dance students.**

This change will provide more options for student in Theatre and Dance who decide they want to pursue an education degree after the freshman year. Currently, students who choose this option after the freshman year have to commit to extra years of coursework due to the sequential nature of the COE Core curriculum. In addition, an MAT5 option will provide options that other Theatre and Dance programs in the state and region do not provide.

No discussion and the program passed

#### **2. Modify the MEd in special education program**

Name change

Existing Program Name: MED-SPED

Existing Title: MED in SPECIAL EDUCATION

New Program Name: MED-SPED-INT

New Title: MED in SPECIAL EDUCATION INTERVENTIONS

And add courses in Specialty Studies:

- SPED 561 Characteristics of Students with Learning Disabilities
- SPED 610 Positive Behavior Intervention and Support
- SPED 680 Mathematics Interventions
- READ 620 Literacy Strategies for Struggling Learners

Brad Witzel discussed the purpose of the new program

Program modification was approved.

Conversation ensued on the electronic voting process

-The electronic voting resulted in more participation than usual. There were questions about the opportunity to discuss the actions before voting. There is a way to provide that opportunity prior to casting vote. There was discussion about sending reminders to vote. More votes and feedback were received than usual. Robert Rules and suggestions should be used to oversee this process. Dean Kedrowski said that she will review and present rules used for graduate council. Jennifer Jordan said that this process is working but needs revision. Dean Kedrowski moved that we adopt a process that supports electronic voting. Motion passed.

#### VI. Report from the Dean of the Graduate School

Jack DeRochi

We had 120 RSVPs for the Ballantyne Graduate Alumni Event. Inclement weather postponed the event to April 24<sup>th</sup>.

Activities in the Deans office include grant work, seminars, and graduate assistantship work. More specifics on the grad assistantship show that we are getting a great response on the good work that our graduate associates are doing. We will not be able to give raises for GAs unless we cut current GA positions. We are putting together a plan to establish more equity between departments and colleges. Dean DeRochi said that we are committed to our current GAs and will try to keep all of our current positions and compensation. He has meetings coming up with each group to work this out in the next few weeks.

Provost Boyd said determining what is budgeted on GAs and what we are paying is difficult. Some programs that have been budgeted GA funding may be using it in a different way. This extra work has slowed the process. We are trying to recoup money lost from previous cuts. Jo Koster shared concerns that there are discussions outside of Winthrop about our lack of financial assistantships. The longer we wait, the more difficult it is to recruit.

Dean Kedrowski stated that Arts and Sciences put forth several proposals for new GA positions. How likely are these to be funded? Dean DeRochi said that these will likely

not be able to be funded on top of current positions. We hope to not lose any positions as we have already several tough decisions in this regard.

Dean DeRochi shared information on enrollment from total enrollment, degree-seeking and nondegree-seeking. Our visioning is tied to our enrollment and we have slightly lower enrollment. Don Rogers said that we are dealing with international students as well. Question was brought about our enrollment trend. Dean DeRochi said in the current budget climate, one year of significant enrollment decline prohibits a return to previous level of GA funding.

- VI. Unfinished Business. None.
- VII. New Business. None.
- VIII. Announcements. None.
- IX. Adjournment at 5:01pm