

GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

CHAired BY: David S. Chapman

TIME: 3:00 pm

DATE: 29 September 2008

PLACE: 300 Park Building

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Ann Marie Breznay, Nicki Camp, Darrell Davis, Martha Eining, Janell Fluckiger, Julie Fritz, Chris Lippard Jay Mace, John Martinez, John McDonnell, Kevin Rathunde, Patrick Tresco, Robert Young

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

EXCUSED: Dan Cairo, Paolo Gondolo, Pat Murphy, Nancy Nickman, Sally Planalp, Mary Jane Taylor

FINAL AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes – 25 August 2008

The Minutes of the 25 August 2008 meeting were noted to be dated incorrectly, and were approved unanimously as revised.

2. 2008 Guidelines for the Professional Doctorate

Dean Chapman presented the guidelines created by the Professional Doctorate Task Force in response to the growing number of professional doctorate degrees. With clear differences between professional doctorate and traditional PhD degrees, the task force created a set of guidelines to address admission requirements, registration, grading, transfer credit, language requirement, supervisory committee membership, program of study, residency, qualifying assessment, culmination project, final assessment and time limits.

ACTION TAKEN:

Motion: Approve the guidelines.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

Action: Inform the Graduate School of the Graduate Council's decision to approve the Professional Doctorate Guidelines. The guidelines will be forwarded to the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs for transmittal to the Academic Senate.

3. Proposal to Change Name of Department of Meteorology to Department of Atmospheric Sciences in the College of Mines and Earth Sciences

Jim Steenburgh, Chair of the Department of Meteorology, presented the proposal to change the name of the Department of Meteorology to the Department of Atmospheric Sciences.

The name Atmospheric Sciences reflects the breadth of research in the department, as well as the interdisciplinary research and education efforts. Nationally, a number of Meteorology departments are changing to Atmospheric Sciences, and it is expected that this change may potentially bring in additional research funding and graduate students. The name change is unanimously supported by department faculty.

The department would prefer the abbreviation ATMOS over ATMO. Ed Barbanell clarified that a 5 letter code is permissible and will initiate the change from METEO to ATMOS for Fall 2009. The Graduate School will amend the code on the proposal to ATMOS.

ACTION TAKEN:

Motion: Approve the proposal with revisions.

Vote: Approved unanimously as amended, with Jay Mace excused for the vote.

Action: Inform the Department of Meteorology 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.

4. Proposal to Create a New Sustainability Center in the College of Architecture + Planning

Craig Forster, Director of the Office of Sustainability, and Cheri Daily, Director of Corporate and Foundation Giving in the Office of Development, presented a proposal to create the Sustainability Center.

The Sustainability Center would be a pan-campus, multi-disciplinary endeavor, reporting to David Pershing, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. The Center will facilitate funding research programs that address at least one of the three pillars of sustainability: environmental stewardship, economic stability and social equity. It is expected that private donors will be a significant source of funding.

The Center has received a founding gift of \$60,000 from Rio Tinto/Kennecott, with a one-time matching gift from the University of Utah, dependent on approval to create the Sustainability Center. The founding gift and matching gift will support a full-time Development Officer and part-time Center Manager for the first year.

The Council asked for the following:

- clarification as to how the Center would not compete with other centers and departments
- endorsement from regular faculty
- endorsement from existing centers
- clarification on matching donors with research of similar scope
- clarification on need for Center versus faculty and/or students soliciting donors from private sources

ACTION TAKEN:

Motion: Approve the proposal with revisions.

Vote: Approved with 10 for, 2 against and 2 abstentions.

Action: Inform the Office of Sustainability of the Graduate Council's decision to approve the proposal with revisions. Once clarifications are received and the proposal revised, the proposal will be forwarded to the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs for transmittal to the Academic Senate.

5. Graduate Council Review of the Department of Communication

Bill Hesterly, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee, presented the Graduate Council Review of the Department of Communication.

The department was noted to have responded to areas of need identified in the 2001 review, as well as making significant progress in addressing diversity. Areas addressed in Recommendations include RPT, assisting graduate students in their first year and improving stipend rates to remain competitive. Recommendation #2 will be amended to read “Practices and guidelines...”

ACTION TAKEN:

Motion: Approve the review as amended.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

Action: The amended report will be discussed at the Wrap-Up Meeting (in attendance: Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dean of the College of Humanities, Chair of the Department of Communication, 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 Academic Affairs for transmittal to the Academic Senate.

6. Graduate Council Review of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

Julie Fritz, Ad Hoc Committee Chair, presented the Graduate Council Review of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering has developed strong graduate and undergraduate programs. The department has recently secured an endowed chair, and funding for additional faculty.

The department’s growth demands additional support staff in order to meet the growth and increased research of the department. Facilities are inadequate, and the department has initiated an ongoing development campaign to address this concern. Recommendation # 6 will be amended to address diversity with more specificity.

ACTION TAKEN:

Motion: Approve the review as amended.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

Action: The revised report will be discussed at the Wrap-Up Meeting (in attendance: Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dean of the College of Engineering, Chair of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, 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 Academic Affairs for transmittal to the Academic Senate.