

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Graduate School
Minutes of the Graduate School Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday, November 7, 1974
11:30 a.m. 626 Campus Club

Present: Policy and Review Committee Chairmen: Robert Schreiner, Education and Psychology; Dennis Watson, Health Sciences; Betty Robinett, Language, Literature and the Arts; Benjamin Bayman, Physical Sciences; Donald Otterby, Plant and Animal Sciences; Edward Foster, Social Sciences

Graduate School Representatives: Kenneth Keller, Acting Dean of the Graduate School and Chairman of the Executive Committee; Kenneth Zimmerman, Assistant Dean; Andrew Hein, Assistant Dean; M. Harry Lease, Assistant Dean, Graduate School Duluth

Mayo Representative: Professor Frederic McDuffie

Council of Graduate Students Representatives (COGS): Pat Buescher, Malcolm Chesnutt, Dennis Cooper, David Eckholm

Graduate School Staff: Beverly Miller, Assistant to the Dean; Bonita Sindelir, Assistant to the Dean; Shirley McDonald, Principal Executive Secretary; DeeAnn Olsen, Assistant to the Dean and Secretary to the Executive and Policy and Review Committees

Dennis Cooper, President of COGS, introduced two new graduate student representatives to members of the Executive Committee. David Eckholm replaces Marcia Tresslar as member-at-large, and Malcolm Chesnutt, COGS Executive Vice President, will be the fourth graduate student representative on the committee.

Minutes of the October 10, 1974 Meeting

Mr. Cooper proposed two amendments to the minutes of the previous meeting. A motion to adopt the minutes as amended was made, seconded, and carried.

(1) Section I, Item E, Graduate School Constitution

The following sentence is to be inserted after the first sentence of the paragraph: "Establishment of the Constitution Committee was requested by the Council of Graduate Students."

(2) Section II, Item B, Graduate Faculty Evaluation

The wording of the first sentence of the paragraph should be changed to read: "It was reported by Dean Keller that he had received a letter from Mr. Cooper which called attention to several recommendations made by the Senate Committee on Educational Policy at its May 30, 1974 meeting concerning the evaluation of teaching." The following insert is to be

included after the first sentence: "The Council of Graduate Students requested that a faculty-administration-student committee be appointed to develop methods of graduate faculty teaching evaluation. The request of COGS was further explored in a meeting between the Graduate Dean and Mr. Cooper." (see attached letter from Mr. Cooper and resolution from COGS)

I. FOR INFORMATION

A. New Graduate Degree Program Proposals

Dean Keller reported that two new graduate degree program proposals have been received at the Graduate School and have been forwarded to the Social Sciences Policy and Review Committee for action. The proposed programs are for a Master of Business Administration--Duluth and a Master of Arts program in Community and Regional Studies--Duluth. Once the new programs are passed by the Social Sciences Policy and Review Committee, the Graduate School Executive Committee will review and act upon them.

B. Graduate School Grievance Committee

Dean Keller informed committee members that the Office of the Vice President for Academic Administration has taken the position that 1974-75 will be a transitional year as relates to grievance committees. During the interim period, requirements placed upon grievance committees by the May, 1974 Senate mandate will not apply to those committees constituted in accordance with a previously regularized procedure. Units will have an opportunity during that time to implement procedures for electing grievance committees in compliance with the Senate document. As in past years, grievances brought before the Graduate School during 1974-75 will be heard by the Graduate School Grievance Committee appointed by the Dean.

C. Biochemistry Coordinating Committee

Dean Keller reported that the structure and functions of the new Biochemistry Coordinating Committee had been approved by the Health Sciences and the Plant and Animal Sciences Policy and Review Committees. The establishment of the committee is intended to strengthen coordination in the graduate biochemistry program and to diminish duplication of efforts and overlap which may otherwise occur in a single graduate program supported by two departments on geographically distinct campuses. Dean Keller explained that the formation of the Biochemistry Coordinating Committee was listed as an item primarily for information rather than discussion at the Executive Committee meeting since it involved only a particular area of the Graduate School. The matter was referred for action to the two policy and review committees directly concerned with the field. Dean Keller pointed out that only when an issue has implications for the Graduate School as a whole is it necessary for the Graduate School Executive Committee to act upon it.

D. Figures for the Graduate School in the Legislative Request

Dean Keller reported that the University's legislative request for the 1975-77 biennium includes an addition of approximately \$70,000 to the Graduate School's regular 0100 budget, for the most part to convert existing soft money positions to a more regular category. Dean Zimmerman added that \$25,000 of this amount is designated for minority and disadvantaged students.

Dean Keller explained that very significant changes have been made in the legislative request as submitted for fellowship and research funds for the Graduate School. At the present time the Graduate School does not have State money for fellowships at all. The 1975-77 legislative request calls for new State money in the amount of \$400,000 for the first year of the biennium and an additional \$600,000 for the second year. These amounts are in addition to and separate from the Bush fellowship money which is currently available. Among other uses, the fellowship money will be a means of attracting high calibre students from good Universities to Minnesota and thus to broaden the Graduate School. Professor Schreiner asked whether departments will receive an assignment of fellowships. Dean Keller said that awards would be primarily on an individual student basis rather than on a distribution of a certain number of fellowships to each department. The Graduate School is preparing a document regarding the fellowship selection process which will be brought before the Graduate School Executive Committee.

The state special for general research has been expanded considerably. If approved as submitted, the State allotment for research will increase from the present figure of approximately \$237,000 to \$487,000 over the two-year period of the biennium. The medical and cancer state special will grow from approximately \$202,000 to \$222,000 through the biennium. These latter funds are intended for the health sciences. All of these funds provide seed money for young investigators, support for established investigators who are moving into new areas, support for investigators who are presently engaged in research which began under previous grants to allow work to continue while they are awaiting new grants, and matching funds for equipment.

E. Meeting with President Magrath on Mission Statement

Dean Keller explained that President Magrath and certain other members from central administration held meetings with administrators of the various units of the University. When the meeting was first arranged, it was thought that a small, informal session was intended, which would be limited to the immediate members of the Graduate School, thus allowing the President to meet the staff and tour the facilities. Graduate School committee members, therefore, were not invited to attend the session, nor were COGS representatives invited.

Dean Keller explained that the meeting turned out in actuality to be much broader and larger than anticipated and included the press and University Senate committee members. Apologizing for the misunderstanding, Dean Keller regretted that COGS representatives and Executive Committee representatives had not been present. The material distributed by the Graduate School at the mission statement meeting was passed out to the committee members. If any one wishes to have any of these items discussed by the Executive Committee, he is requested to contact the Dean's office.

Dean Keller indicated that the meeting focused on the question of what the staff perceived as occurring within the next ten years and what they would like to see happen. Among other points, the complexity and breadth of the Graduate School, its desire to provide guidance but not rigidity, and its relation with collegiate units and central administration were discussed. Dean Keller stated that he made clear that the views expressed were personal rather than the formal opinion of a policy making body of the Graduate School.

F. Fall, 1974 Enrollment Trends

Ms. Beverly Miller reported that there had been a 26% increase in Fall, 1973 new student enrollment (students registering for the first time at the Twin Cities campuses) over new enrollment as of Fall, 1972. The total Graduate School enrollment increased 3.4% from Fall Quarter, 1973 to Fall Quarter, 1974; in 1973 enrollment at the end of the second week was 7,002 graduate students and by the end of the same period in 1974, 7,243. Total enrollment as of Fall Quarter, 1974 at the Duluth Campus was up 12% over total fall enrollment in 1973. Mayo enrollment declined in 1974 due to a deliberate decrease in residency positions. Based on inquiries which the Graduate School is receiving currently, it is speculated that total enrollment will increase by 4% as of Fall Quarter, 1975, on the Twin Cities campuses.

II. FOR DISCUSSION

Double Counting of Course Credits in Graduate Degree Programs

Dean Keller introduced for Executive Committee discussion the question of the educational merit of double counting of course credits in graduate programs. The question applies only to master's degrees since the Ph. D. degree does not specify course requirements. At the present time a student may not apply more than nine credits toward two or more master's programs. The number is arbitrary, and a policy toward use of the same courses to satisfy more than one graduate degree is needed. Dean Hein indicated that the number of requests for double counting has drastically increased and attributes the increase in part to today's job market. Students believe that it is more advantageous to have several graduate degrees rather than one. The discussion which followed included consideration of the following points: graduate admission requirements of individual departments and of the Graduate School, student-adviser relationships at the graduate level when more than one

degree is involved, course and credit requirements for graduate degrees; Plan B projects and thesis regulations; and examinations, oral or written, required for master's degrees. The concern was expressed that employers might be misled by the number of credits which a student has actually taken if he has several degrees but has partially earned them due to double counting.

The policy and review committee chairmen were asked to bring the question of double counting of course credits before their committees for further discussion. Dean Keller indicated that the majority of the Executive Committee members seemed to have no intrinsic objection to double counting; the consensus appeared to be that if a student satisfies all of the educational requirements for a particular degree, regardless of whether double counting is or is not involved, that he has earned a right to the degree. If a similar policy is established by the policy and review committees, the problem becomes an administrative one, that of issuing several certificates, rather than a question of educational merit. Dean Keller suggested that the student's transcript might list the fields in which a student has qualified for a graduate degree rather than having the Graduate School offer several diplomas. The Graduate School will draft a policy statement regarding double counting of course credits and present it at one of the future Graduate School Executive Committee meetings for discussion and action.

III. FOR ACTION

A. Request to Omit the Dentistry Designation from the M. S. D. Degree

Dean Keller informed the members that the Health Sciences Policy and Review Committee at their October 29, 1974 meeting approved the School of Dentistry's request to omit the dentistry designation from the M. S. D. degree. Dr. Watson stated that Dean Jensen of the School of Dentistry had explained to the policy and review committee that the title change is an attempt to more accurately reflect the nature of the degree presently awarded by the University. A Master of Science in Dentistry degree carries a national connotation of being professionally oriented and is generally thought of as an award granted by a dental school. However, as the degree exists at the University, its orientation is toward scientific research, and it properly belongs under the aegis of the Graduate School. A motion was made and seconded to approve the request with the stipulation that students currently in the program may choose either the M. S. D. or the M. S. degree but that new students entering summer session of 1975 and thereafter will receive only the M. S. degree. The motion was carried.

B. Program Proposal: Master of Geotechnology

Dean Keller reported that the proposal comes before the Executive Committee in an amended form; at the October 24, 1974 meeting of the Physical Sciences Policy and Review Committee, the proposers of the program accepted the title change. Professor Bayman explained that the original title, "Master of Geomechanics," had not been acceptable to some committee members since the curriculum for the proposed degree did not include, among other requirements, a two or three quarter sequence in fluid mechanics nor one or two quarters of solid mechanics. Professor Charles Fairhurst, Head of the Department of Civil and Mineral Engineering, was present at the policy and review committee meeting and indicated that the department would have no objection to changing the proposed degree title.

For the committee's reference, Professor Bayman explained the needs giving rise to the proposal and the structure of the proposed degree. The United States Army Corps of Engineers had approached the University to inquire about establishing a graduate program for its engineering personnel, individuals holding a Bachelor's degree in Geology and having five to twenty years' field experience. The corps was primarily interested in advanced engineering courses of a professional orientation, not a research-oriented degree, but since the individuals involved were geologists, not engineers, they were not eligible for the Master of Engineering program already offered at the University. The new program proposal was therefore drafted.

A motion to approve the amended proposal was made and seconded. In the discussion which followed, Professor Schreiner questioned why the degree could not be awarded by the Institute of Technology rather than by the Graduate School. Mr. Cooper wondered if a policy existed concerning professional degrees awarded under the aegis of the Graduate School. Dean Keller explained that although he personally favored moving away from a proliferation of professional degrees within the Graduate School, no official policy has been established. Mr. Cooper asked if the Institute of Technology could award the degree. Dean Keller replied that at the present they have no professional degrees. Procedures would have to be drawn up and implemented. A motion was made and seconded to table the motion until a policy regarding professional degrees in the Graduate School was adopted. Professor Bayman objected, saying that some professional degrees are presently awarded by the Graduate School and that it would be an inconsistency to table this particular request on those grounds. The motion to table was defeated.

The motion to approve the amended program proposal for a Master of Geotechnology was again before the committee. Asked if the proposal had to conform to the Griffin report, Dean Keller stated that the requirements thus far had been applied to M. A. and M. S. degrees but not to professional degrees. Several committee members pointed out that the

requirements of the proposed degree did not conform in all aspects with the Master of Engineering degree. The proposal as drafted requires that a graduating student must have an equivalent overall G.P.A. of 2.7 instead of the 2.8 specified for the Master of Engineering degree and other graduate degrees in general. The time limit (see page three of the appendix) placed upon students in the program is also inconsistent with the Master of Engineering program. There is an additional inconsistency within the proposal itself; page two of the appendix specifies a minimum of 27 quarter credits of graduate level coherent course work, but page four of the proposal (revised as of August 1974) specifies a minimum of 28-29 credits.

The original motion before the committee was amended to specify that the requirements of the Master of Geotechnology which differ from the requirements of the Master of Engineering would be made consistent with the latter program.

A motion to postpone a vote on the program proposal as amended until the next meeting of the Graduate School Executive Committee was made, seconded, and carried. At the next meeting, the changes needed in the Master of Geotechnology program requirements to make it consistent with the Master of Engineering program requirements will be presented to the committee. A representative of the department sponsoring the program will also be present to answer further questions.

Next Scheduled Meeting

The next meeting of the Graduate School Executive Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, December 3, 1974 at 11:30 a.m. in room 626 of the Campus Club.

Respectfully submitted,

DeeAnn Olsen, Secretary

12/2/74

DAO/skj

COUNCIL OF GRADUATE STUDENTS
309 JOHNSTON HALL · MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55455
PHONE 373-7909 · AREA CODE 612
September 26, 1974

Dr. Kenneth H. Keller
Acting Dean, Graduate School
University of Minnesota
Mpls., Mn. 55455

Dear Dean Keller:

The Executive Committee of the Council of Graduate Students has directed me to contact you on three matters that particularly concern us.

First, the development of a college constitution is of utmost importance. For whatever reasons, good or bad, the Graduate School is one of two colleges which have been grossly negligent in conforming with the Regents mandate to have completed this important task a full two years ago. However, this fall is a new beginning; the past is of no concern to us now. It is essential that you immediately convene the Constitution Committee, and direct it to prepare and submit a final report to be voted on by the Policy and Review Committees and COGS, and to be approved by the Executive Committee of the Graduate School. When I meet with President Magrath later this fall (at his invitation) to discuss graduate concerns, the constitution will be the first topic raised. Please understand that this is in no way intended to unduly or improperly pressure you. I believe I would be remiss in my responsibilities to omit this topic in speaking with the President, and I also believe in being completely above-board with you regarding my intentions to do so.

Secondly, we think it is most important that you appoint a student-faculty-administrative committee charged with defining and developing methods of evaluating graduate faculty teaching effectiveness. This action will be in accord with the Senate mandate of May 30, 1974 and with the understanding reached by Dean Brodbeck with Julie Belle White on March 13, 1974 (see attached copy). Graduate student evaluations of teaching effectiveness should be one of the criteria used by the P & R Committees and the Dean of the Graduate School in conferring graduate faculty status. We urge that appointment of this committee be another top-priority item in the Graduate School this year.

It seems appropriate that both of the above requests be placed on the agenda of the Graduate School Executive Committee meeting on Thursday, October 10, 1974.

Finally, I want to clarify the position of COGS with regard to representation of graduate assistants: I don't think I stated it strongly enough in our short meeting on September 11, 1974. We are absolutely committed to resist any

involvement whatsoever in employee issues of graduate assistants. We do not officially represent GA's (we are unequipped to do so); therefore, we cannot speak or act in their behalf. If the Graduate School or any other administrative branch of the University desires the sanction of GA's on any issue, that sanction must be obtained independent of COGS. This is not to say that COGS is unconcerned over the welfare of GA's. We have in the past endeavored to inform GA's of issues which concern them and addressed ourselves to broad issues affecting GA funding, such as R & R. However, we cannot and will not serve as the official spokesman to the administration on GA employee issues, nor can we serve as a vehicle for facilitating resolution of those issues.

I look forward to joining you in meeting the challenges of a new academic year.

Cordially,

Dennis P. Cooper
President, Council of Graduate Students

DPC/rg

COUNCIL OF GRADUATE STUDENTS
309 JOHNSTON HALL • MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55435
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11 March 1974

RESOLUTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL OF GRADUATE STUDENTS:

Resolved that the Graduate School establish an authoritative committee of faculty, students and administrators to define and develop methodologies for the evaluation of graduate faculty excellence within the University of Minnesota.

The concern of the committee includes, minimally, the definition or terms and development of the methodology for the evaluation of graduate faculty teaching, advising and research skills; toward the goal of producing quantitatively supportable instruments for use by all levels of the University.

The scope of the committee includes, minimally, defining and developing evaluation so as to support the existing program review structure within the Graduate School, the graduate faculty nomination procedures of the Graduate School and the University's and Graduate School's pursuit of excellence.