

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
GRADUATE SCHOOL

Minutes, Graduate School Executive Committee
Meeting of Tuesday, February 27, 1990
1:30 p.m., Room 303 Johnston Hall

Present: Faculty representatives--Professors Darrell A. Frohrib, Lael Gatewood, John Fraser Hart, David E. Smith, Nicholas Spadaccini, Michael G. Wade; administrative representatives--Deans Mark Brenner, Robert T. Holt (chair), Walter Weyhmann, Kenneth Zimmerman; Duluth representative--Professor James A. Grant; student representatives--Trudy Dunham, Anna Tonkovich; staff--Dean John T. Hatten, Dean Andrew J. Hein, Myrna Smith; secretary--Vicki Field

I. Approval of the Minutes of the November 21, 1989, and February 5, 1990 Meetings

The minutes were approved with the following correction noted in those from the special meeting held on February 5:

page 4, first full paragraph, line 18 (mid-page):

He recalled that a special committee chaired by Law School Professor Steve Scallen is looking at ways of improving the salary system here, in connection with the removal of the mandatory retirement age in 1993.

(Added material is underscored.)

II. Repeal of the Motion Calling for New Full Member Appointments to the Graduate Faculty to be for Five Years

The Executive Committee continued its discussion, begun in the fall quarter 1989, of an alternative to the proposed Graduate School policy that would require new full member appointments to the graduate faculty to be for five years. Recommended instead was periodic review of graduate faculty membership to take place coincident with the formal program review (which occurs every five to seven years), or independently at individual programs' discretion prior to the scheduled Graduate School review. Graduate faculty members who were judged inactive, according to predetermined criteria, would be asked to voluntarily resign their membership in the particular graduate program faculty. (The proposed policy did not address steps to be taken if the faculty member did not voluntarily resign, however.) Both the relevant Policy and Review Council and the Graduate School Dean would be involved in review process. Mentioned in the Executive Committee's discussion was a similar recommendation from the Mandatory Retirement Task Force, which calls for post-tenure performance reviews to be conducted at least every five years. In connection with this Task Force recommendation, it was suggested that the Graduate School review and the post-tenure evaluation (if the latter is approved) be combined into a single review. The individual Policy and Review Councils would need to determine appropriate criteria for continued full membership, Dean Holt said. He expected that emphasis would be placed on productivity in the five to seven years preceding review of the Graduate School appointment, however.

On a unanimous vote, the Executive Committee rescinded the motion approved on November 17, 1988, calling for new full member appointments to the graduate

faculty to be for five years, and resolved to implement instead the proposed alternative review procedure. (A copy of the resolution adopted by the Executive Committee is attached.)

III. Request to Discontinue the Master of Geotechnology (M.Geo.T.) Degree

The request, which had been approved without dissent by the Physical Sciences Policy and Review Council, also received unanimous Executive Committee endorsement. It was noted that only one student is pursuing the M.Geo.T. degree at present. The M.S. degree in Geo-Engineering will continue to meet the needs of students who might otherwise have sought the M.Geo.T. degree.

(COPY OF REQUEST APPENDED WITH THESE MINUTES.)

IV. Proposal for a New Graduate School Admissions Category: Special Student Program

Dean Holt reported that all of the Policy and Review Councils had discussed the Graduate School proposal and that the response had been generally favorable. The proposal will be resubmitted to the Councils and Executive Committee for final consideration and action in the spring.

The following issues were raised in the ensuing discussion: Ms. Dunham said some graduate students had expressed concern about Special Students' ineligibility for financial aid under the proposal as written. Dean Zimmerman reported that in the Health Sciences Council, concern had been voiced about transfer of CEE work to a Graduate School program. Students could still transfer work taken through CEE, provided the work was taken after admission to the Special Student program, he clarified. Professor Gatewood wondered how the proposed admissions category might apply to students in the joint M.D./Ph.D. program and to postdoctoral students, especially those who want University of Minnesota coursework to appear on a transcript and who also desire easy access to 8-level courses. She pointed out that some postdoctoral students receive support for up to three years and may wish to remain in the Special Student category beyond the proposed one-year maximum. To an observation that timing constraints currently lead to use of the Adult Special category, Dean Holt said the Graduate School's deadlines for admission are very generous compared to those of other institutions. He suggested expedited review of Special Student applications as an alternative to accepting one quarter of transfer work taken through Adult Special registration. In response to a concern raised by the Social Sciences group, the Graduate School had investigated possible restrictions on registration by handicapped students whose tuition is paid by the state. No restrictions were found.

Dean Holt said he would also submit the Graduate School proposal to the budgetary college deans for their comment.

(COPY OF GRADUATE SCHOOL PROPOSAL APPENDED.)

V. Dean's Report

Dean Holt stated that he had nothing further to add to his recent reports to the Policy and Review Councils.

VI. Possible Change in the Graduate School Bulletin Language Concerning Timely Delivery of the Ph.D. Thesis to Members of the Final Oral Examining Committee

Professor Frohrib reported that the Physical Sciences Council had discussed in the fall problems associated with current Graduate School policy governing the timed allowed members of the final oral examining committee to read the Ph.D. thesis. Present policy requires that students give all members of the committee at least two weeks to read the thesis. The Physical Sciences Council had recommended that this period be increased to thirty days, because a two-week notice may not always ensure that faculty members will in fact have sufficient time to read the dissertation and decide whether it is ready for defense.

Instead of a thirty-day requirement, which might disadvantage students in some fields or under some circumstances (e.g., cases where the examining committee had been in close contact with the student during the thesis-writing stage), Dean Holt asked Executive Committee members to consider the following proposed bulletin language: "To permit faculty to allocate sufficient time to read the thesis and decide whether it is ready for defense, students must notify their adviser and other members of the final oral committee well in advance that the dissertation will be delivered on a particular date. All members of the committee must have at least two weeks to read the thesis." (Material proposed to be added is underscored.) A brief discussion ensued that focussed principally on the meaning of "well in advance." Dean Holt suggested that two weeks would constitute sufficient advance notice of impending thesis delivery. Executive Committee members agreed by consensus to add this sentence to the Graduate School bulletin, substituting "two weeks" for "well in advance." Dean Holt said this procedure would be followed on an experimental basis for several years.

VII. Report from the General Research Advisory Committee

Dean Weyhmann reported that March 5 was the deadline for submission of grant applications for the committee's spring meeting.

VIII. Report from the Council of Graduate Students

Ms. Dunham reported on recent COGS' activities. Mentioned in her report were COGS' efforts to interest minority students in graduate education, testimony before the Senate Committee on Educational Policy concerning problems resulting from the "ambiguity" of 5-level courses, a special meeting with President Hasselmo to discuss issues in graduate education, clarification of COGS' role in the University governance structure, and continued work toward improved health care benefits for graduate students. Ms. Dunham also commented on COGS' attempts to clarify issues related to graduate assistant unionization. A brief discussion followed Ms. Dunham's report.

IX. Report of Board of Regents Actions Regarding Graduate Degree Program Additions, Deletions and Name Changes

Dean Zimmerman reported that the Board of Regents in January had approved the change in name of the Plant Physiology graduate program to Plant Biological

Sciences, and the related request to discontinue the Botany program. The proposals for a Ph.D. degree program in Biomedical Science and for an M.S. degree program in Management of Technology should receive initial Regents' endorsement in March. Discussions about the budgetary aspects of the proposal for an M.S./Ph.D. degree program in Toxicology have delayed this proposal's consideration by the Regents.

X. Old Business

No old business was reported.

XI. New Business

Professor Frohrib stated that the Physical Sciences Council had expressed concern about possible inequities introduced by diverse requirements for satisfying the Plan B project for the master's degree. Dean Zimmerman cited the Graduate School policy, which stipulates that the graduate faculty in each major field shall specify both the nature and extent of the options available to satisfy the Plan B requirement. To Professor Frohrib's suggestion that the range of practices with respect to the Plan B project may warrant examination, Dean Holt said each program could be asked to describe its particular practice.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Field, Assistant to the Dean

DRAFT
1/18/90

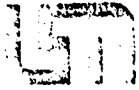
GRADUATE SCHOOL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1) At its meeting on 17 November 1988, the Graduate School Executive Committee voted with one abstention to require all new full member appointments to the graduate faculty to be for five years. The motion was offered in the spirit of University planning (Commitment to Focus/Strategy for Focus), which recommended in part that all members of the graduate faculty reapply for membership every five years.

2) In lieu of a review of full member appointments on staggered five-year cycles, it is proposed instead that periodic review of graduate faculty membership take place coincident with the formal program review, if not independently at individual programs' discretion prior to the scheduled Graduate School review. At the time of the regular program review, or at another interval at programs' discretion, the program--in conjunction with the relevant Policy and Review Council and the Graduate School Dean--should evaluate the participation of each member of its graduate faculty and request those members who are inactive, according to predetermined criteria, to voluntarily resign their membership in the particular graduate program faculty.

3) To this end, the following motion is proposed:

Resolved, to rescind the motion approved by the Graduate School Executive Committee on 17 November 1988 calling for new full member appointments to the graduate faculty to be for five years, and to implement instead the review procedure described in paragraph two, above.



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GRADUATE SCHOOL

JAN 30 1990

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

January 25, 1990

Dean Robert Holt
Graduate School
321 Johnston Hall

Dear Dean Holt:

The Graduate Faculty in the Geo-Engineering program would like to request the elimination of the Master of Geotechnology Degree. The program currently has the Master of Science, the Master of Geo-Engineering, and the Master of Geotechnology degrees, and it is believed that two masters degrees are sufficient. There is currently one graduate student remaining in the Master of Geotechnology Degree program, and that student can be shifted over to the Master of Geo-Engineering Degree program.

There are currently 12 Graduate Faculty in the Geo-Engineering program. Two are on sabbatical leave. All of the ten remaining were contacted to vote on the elimination of the degree. Seven responded, and all seven voted to "eliminate the Master of Geotechnology Degree."

Sincerely,

John Gulliver
Director of Graduate Studies
Civil and Mineral Engineering

JG/ss

University of Minnesota Graduate School
New Admissions Category: Special Student Program

The Graduate School proposes the establishment of a new admissions category called the Special Student Program. The usual application process, departmental approvals, and admission deadlines would apply. Students who hold the Bachelor's degree from a recognized college or university, or its foreign equivalent, could be admitted to this non-degree category. Its purpose would be to provide an opportunity for a student to gain additional background, test interest and commitment to the field, complete prerequisites, or remedy deficiencies prior to entering a degree program. It would also provide faculty an opportunity to assess the student's capability to do high quality work at an advanced level. Many institutions, such as Cornell, Harvard, and Michigan, already have such a program in place.

Enrollment in this category would be limited in time (e.g. one year) or credits (e.g. 21 credits), after which the student, with the degree program's and Graduate School's approval, could change to regular degree status.

At the present time large numbers of students seeking to enter the Graduate School find it easy to register in any one of the undergraduate colleges as an Adult Special, and later transfer, upon admission to the Graduate School, (1) up to 40 percent of program coursework toward a Master's degree, or (2) all of the first quarter's Adult Special coursework toward a Ph.D. This arrangement not only subverts the purpose of the undergraduate Adult Special category -- intended to provide easy access for adults to non-degree coursework -- but actually encourages students with graduate degree goals to register for the maximum number of credits possible at low undergraduate tuition rates. Thus, the incentives in the system work, however inadvertently, to keep undergraduate enrollment artificially high and Graduate School enrollment artificially low. New Adult Special enrollment rose from 702 in Fall 1988 to 1,258 in Fall 1989.

With the creation of a Special Student Program, transfer of coursework from undergraduate colleges to a graduate degree program would no longer be permitted. (Note: Students could still transfer work taken through CEE, provided the work was taken after the student's first registration in a Graduate School degree program.) Other miscellaneous enrollment categories, such as "Transient" (short-term enrollees from other recognized graduate schools) and "Coursework Only" would be eliminated. As is now the case with the "Coursework Only" category, students enrolled in the Special Student category would not be permitted to hold assistantships or to receive other graduate student support.

In summary, undergraduate Adult Special status would revert to its original purpose of providing adults with access to non-degree personal enrichment coursework. The new Graduate School Special Student program would provide a much-needed avenue for potential degree program students to strengthen their backgrounds or test their interest and commitment to a major field objective.