

## Annual Report of the Graduate Council for 2008/2009

*Theresa Amendola (Graduate Student Advocate), Estie Arkin (Applied Mathematics and Statistics), Ruth Ben-Zvi (Economics), Allegra De Laurentiis (Philosophy), Elaine Hoffman (Library), Michael Kifer (Computer Science), Juliet Kinney (GSO), Kent Marks (Graduate School), Celia Marshik (English), Lawrence Martin (Dean, Graduate School), Anne McElroy (MSRC), Susan O'Leary (Psychology), Brian Phillips (Geoscience), Annie Laurie Shroyer (Preventive Medicine), Marcia Simon (Dental School), Gina Sorrentino (GSO), Arleen Steckel (Nursing School), Charles Taber (Political Science and Associate Dean), Jacobus Verbaarschot (Physics and Astronomy, Chair), Shaneen Washington (Graduate School)*

The Graduate Council is one of the standing Committees of the University Senate. Its charge is to “advise the Dean of the Graduate School and monitor all aspects of the University’s graduate program”. In addition to the 12 elected members, Graduate Council meetings are attended by two GSO representatives, the Graduate student advocate, and an Administrative Staff Member, an Assistant Dean, the Associate Dean and the Dean of the Graduate School. The Graduate Council has one standing committee, the Graduate Council Appeals Committee, with elected members, Susan O’Leary, Marcia Simon, Juliet Kiney and Gina Sorrentino.

The Graduate Council meets every two weeks for 1.5 hours. During the fall semester we had six meetings and during the spring semester we met seven times. All activities and documents of the Graduate Council are kept on an open but unlinked website which is maintained by the Chair of the Council. Meetings start with a report by the Chair and end with a report by the Dean. Generally, Lawrence Martin informs us about decisions and issues in the administration of the University relevant to graduate programs.

The main activity the Graduate Council during the past year has been the review of proposals for new Master Degree Programs. Our main criteria are that the proposal satisfies the requirements of the Graduate School and the University, and that the program will function as intended once it is established. We try to be as constructive as possible and it is our aim that approved proposals will move without further problems through the system.

The following Master Degree proposals were approved:

- Quantitative Finance option in Operation Research of Applied Mathematics and Statistics
- MD/MBA degree of the School of Medicine
- BA/MPH degree in Women’s Studies
- BS/MPH in Pharmacology
- BA/MPH degree in Earth and Space Sciences
- BA/MBA in Art History
- MA in Public Policy with Concentration in Urban and Regional Design
- Modification of MS degree in Mechatronics
- Modified MS degree in Computer Science
- MS degree in Cell Biology

The following Ph.D. proposals were approved:

- Ph.D. Degree in Technology, Policy and Innovation
- Ph.D. Degree in Science Education
- Combined DDS/Ph.D. degree in Dentistry and Oral Biology and Pathology
- Concentration in Astronomy in the Department of Physics and Astronomy

Letters of Intent were received and approved for the following programs

- MS degree in Journalism
- MA in Marine Conservation and Policy
- MA degree in Survey Research Methodology
- MA degree in Culture Studies
- MS degree in Cell Biology

In addition, a new License Form for Dissertations was approved and several issues related to the graduate program were discussed. In the Fall semester we invited representatives of the Research Foundation and the Graduate Student Organization to discuss the unionization effort of the Research Assistants. The implementation of internet based teacher evaluations was discussed in the spring semester. The GCAC considered one complicated case and made recommendations on the points that were raised in the appeal.