

Report of the Graduate Studies Committee 2005-2006

The Graduate Studies Committee worked hard last year to insure academic quality of our graduate programs. Our committee met at least monthly and, in the second part of the Spring semester, several times each month in order to process many proposals related to programmatic initiatives and to the new edition of the graduate bulletin. This was one of the most active years in the recent history of the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) ; over 105 proposal have been processed, and the activity of the committee continued over the summer.

Most proposals required interactions between the GSC and the proponents and the majority of submissions passed our committee and were recommended to the Faculty Council after improvements and changes satisfied our group.

We received strong support from the office of the Graduate Dean, who administered the submissions and helped us organize our work.

We had to face a number of issues that require the attention of the faculty Council:

1. It is difficult to recruit qualified and interested members for our group. Faculty members are aware that work on GSC requires a substantial amount of time-consuming "homework" (reading proposal, contacting and negotiating with proponents, etc.) There is a tendency to push junior faculty members who have other obligations and have no institutional memories into this type of work. We believe that members of the GSC should be at least tenured and, preferably, full professors.
2. Proposals arrive often after publicly announced deadlines. While we do our best to accommodate late proposals, this complicates the work of the committee. We should adhere strictly to the deadlines, at least during years when no revisions to the graduate bulletin are due.
3. College administrators should be aware that the committee takes very seriously the resource allocations required by new proposals. In many case, we got the impression that college approval did not involve a serious contemplation of the necessary resource reallocations required by proposals.