

Graduate Council Meeting  
Minutes  
February 16, 2009

Present: Muehsam, Abshire, Boccaccini, Cook, Hoover, Price, Ruiz, Tayebi

I. Approve Minutes

The minutes from the December 12, 2008 Graduate Council meeting were approved.

II. Review Graduate Faculty Status Recommendations

Per the Graduate Faculty Status Policy, the Council reviewed and made graduate faculty status recommendations for nominations.

III. Students Changing Majors

The Council was reminded that graduate students changing majors have to go through the graduate application process again before they are to be accepted into the program. For students changing within programs having the same admissions process, (i.e., Clinical Psychology to School Psychology) a special form will be created by the Office of Graduate Studies for the advisors to complete with effective date and will be submitted to the Graduate Studies office for processing.

The Council agreed that the faculty has to be more involved in who is accepted into the programs. There was also discussion as to whether or not the faculty wants to have a say in who gets minors in the individual graduate programs. The members were asked to discuss this with their colleagues and bring back comments to the next meeting for discussion.

IV. Grades for Dissertations or Thesis

There was discussion regarding letter grades for thesis and dissertations or credit or no credit. The Council will discuss with their faculty whether they prefer credit or not credit as opposed to letter grades given and do they want non-credit to carry the weight of an "F." The Council will discuss this at a future meeting

V. SACS

Dr. David Potter, Chair of the on-site visit committee, will be coming to SHSU for a preliminary visit this month. The SACS on-site visit committee will be on campus in March for their review.

VI. Raising Image

Many undergraduates are unaware of SHSU's graduate school and graduate programs. The Council is to discuss with their colleges ways that awareness can be presented to our students and report back to the Council members at a later meeting.

VII. Miscellaneous

Higher Education Holdings (HEH) owned by Randy Best has approached SHSU. HEH's mission is to increase student enrollment in state universities by significantly improving access to affordable market-oriented programs. President Gaertner is in discussion with University administrators regarding the pros and cons of SHSU contracting with HEH. The Council will be kept up to date on this issue.