


Memorandum

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DATE: May 15, 2017
TO: Susan Ford
Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
FROM: Yueh- Ting Lee
Dean, Graduate School 
SUBJECT: Resolutions Acted on by the Graduate Council

Attached are three resolutions that were voted on at the May 4, 2017, meeting of the Graduate Council.

The Resolution on the approval of revising the graduate grading policy to include only the most recent (last) grade for a repeated course in calculating the graduate GPA.

The Resolution on the approval of a mentoring program to be created in which each program participant is paired with a mentor who is a tenured faculty member of a different department, and has held the rank to which the participant proximally aspires at SIUC for a least two years; that mentors in the program assist program participants in navigating the institutional culture of the university and the professional world; that participants in the program should assemble at regular intervals for a roundtable meeting with an agenda designed to foster the professional success of program participants; that feedback should be solicited from participants and mentors each semester; that the program have a director who is a tenured faculty member.

The Resolution on the approval expressing sincere gratitude and appreciation to Dr. Ratna Sinha for her superb contributions to the Graduate Council and the Graduate School.

Please contact me if you have any questions or would like additional details.

YTL/ db

Attachment

Cc: Brad Colwell, Interim Chancellor
Lizette Chevalier, Associate Provost for Academic Programs
David DiLalla, Associate Provost for Academic Administration
Tomas Velasco, Chair, Graduate Council
Ruth O'Rourke

Graduate Council Resolution in Support of Revising the Graduate Grading Policy on Repeated Courses

Whereas, the current Graduate Grading Policy states that: "Only courses for which the grades of A, B, C, or S have been received are acceptable in fulfillment of graduate degree requirements. The letter grades A, B, C, D, and F are included in computing the grade-point averages for academic retention. If a graduate student repeats a course with the permission of the graduate dean, both grades will be counted in the grade-point average."

Whereas, this policy means that if a student receives a D or F grade in a course they do not receive graduate credit for it but their GPA may be severely impacted,

Whereas, retaking a course in which a D or F was received and receiving an A, B, or C grade does not remove the GPA impact of the earlier D or F grade,

Whereas, to maintain the required 3.0 GPA, a graduate student receiving a single D grade must have two A grades to offset the D's GPA effect, and a graduate student receiving a single F grade must have three A grades to offset the F's GPA effect,

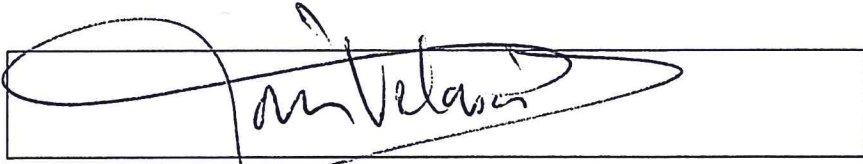
Whereas, a single D or F grade—even if the course is retaken and a higher grade is received--can cause a graduate student to fail to be able to graduate, or may cause a graduate student to have to take additional courses solely to increase their GPA to 3.0,

Whereas, SIUC's grading policy for undergraduates uses only the last grade for a repeated course in computing the student's GPA: "For students receiving a letter grade of A, B, C, D, or F, the course repetition must occur at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Only the most recent (last) grade will be calculated in the overall GPA and count toward hours earned."

Therefore, be it resolved that the Graduate Council supports revising the graduate grading policy to include only the most recent (last) grade for a repeated course in calculating the graduate GPA, by replacing the current policy's sentence: "If a graduate student repeats a course with the permission of the graduate dean, both grades will be counted in the grade-point average.", with the following sentence: "If a graduate student repeats a course with the permission of the graduate dean, only the most recent (last) grade will be counted in the grade-point average."

Date of Approval

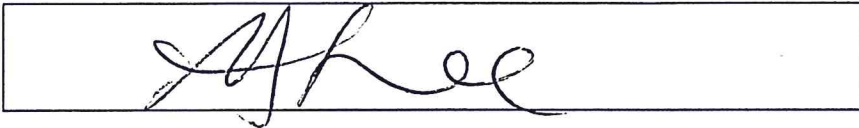
May 4, 2017



Chair, Graduate Council

May 11, 2017

Date



Dean, Graduate School

5/11/17

Date

Graduate Council Resolution on Mentoring

Whereas one of the most widely recognized best practices for retaining and developing junior faculty from underrepresented groups is a broad, robust, and intentional mentoring program that provides support, feedback, community, and advocacy for the junior faculty members' research, teaching, and navigation of the university and professional environments, and

Whereas on November 3 this body resolved that a committee should be convened on faculty training and mentoring, and the research committee was subsequently tasked with this role, and

Whereas the Interim Provost has requested that the research committee develop a plan on how the university can develop a mentoring program for minority and underrepresented junior faculty, and

Whereas the Associate Chancellor for Diversity currently has a program of one or two meetings per year informing tenure-track faculty from underrepresented groups about the tenure process and some campus resources, and some colleges have internal mentoring programs to support junior faculty,

Be it therefore resolved that a mentoring program should be created in which each program participant is paired with a mentor who is a tenured faculty member of a different department, and has held the rank to which the participant proximally aspires at SIUC for at least two years. The program should be open to all participants with tenure-track appointments at rank lower than professor, but special emphasis should be placed on promoting participation by faculty from groups which are presently or historically underrepresented in the tenured faculty or in the discipline of the appointment.

Be it also resolved that mentors in the program should assist program participants in navigating the institutional culture of the university and the professional world; in setting specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-bounded goals for the short, intermediate and long terms; in monitoring progress toward the attainment of these goals; and in cultivating additional formal and informal mentoring relationships beneficial to the participant's success, including relationships within the participant's home department.. The work of mentors should be recognized as service to the university, and mentors should be given meaningful recognition and compensation on the successful completion of each year's work.

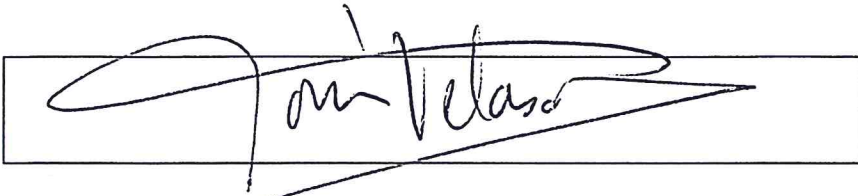
Be it also resolved that participants in the program should assemble at regular intervals (preferably once a month, but at least quarterly) for a roundtable meeting with an agenda designed to foster the professional success of program participants. Some of these meetings may include the mentors, but others will not. Some meetings may be held separately for participants of different ranks.

Be it also resolved that feedback should be solicited from participants and mentors each semester to evaluate the effectiveness of the program and the mentoring relationship.

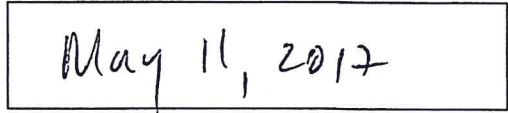
Be it also resolved that the program should have a director who is a tenured faculty member. The director should be responsible for recruiting participants and appropriate and effective mentors; for appropriate training of mentors; for planning regular roundtable meetings; for coordinating with the deans, the Associate Chancellor for Diversity; and all other relevant resources and authorities; and for the ongoing assessment and monitoring of the program. The director should be provided with release time adequate to actively develop, monitor, and direct the program.

Date of Approval


May 4, 2017

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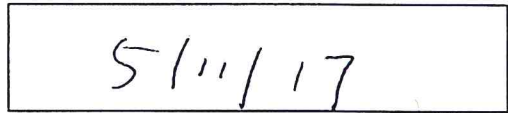
Chair, Graduate Council

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Date

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Dean, Graduate School

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Date

Graduate Council Resolution Recognizing Dr. Ratna Sinha

Whereas, Dr. Ratna Sinha, Assistant Dean of the Graduate School, has worked for SIU Carbondale for 27 years, and

Whereas, She has worked for the Graduate School for 16 years, and

Whereas, She has actively participated in our Graduate Council for the past 16 years, and

Whereas, She provided valuable service and assistance to the Graduate Council and to the Dean of the Graduate School by her wisdom and expertise, and

Whereas, She has provided excellent support for thousands of our graduate students for their graduate registration, records, degree-completion, and dissertations and theses, and

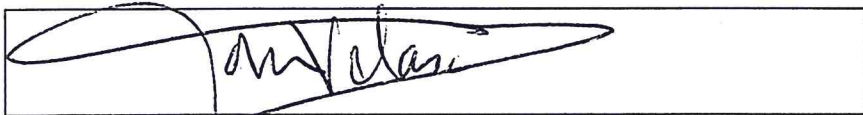
Whereas, She has been committed to international exchange and scholarship including her great service for Fulbright Scholarship, international recruitment, and

Whereas, She has provided outstanding statistical and quantitative support for our Graduate School and all graduate programs on campus,

Therefore be it resolved that, the Graduate Council and the Graduate School at SIU Carbondale express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to Dr. Ratna Sinha for her superb contributions to the Graduate Council and the Graduate School.

Date of Approval

May 4, 2017



Chair, Graduate Council

May 11, 2017

Date



Dean, Graduate School

5/11/17

Date