

*2008-09 Annual Report of the Policy and Programs Committee of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences*

The Programs and Policy Committee of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences met seven times during the 2008-2009 year. Curricula and programming issues were discussed, courses approved and several votes taken for new programs and concentrations. Below is a brief summary of the highlights and the votes taken during the year.

At our first meeting Carmen Lowe and Amalia Jiva presented to the committee the many services offered by the Academic Resource Center that are available to graduate students.

A new concentration in Child Development in the field of Arts and Child Development was approved in the Master's program as well as in the PhD program. Approval was given to the Philosophy department to reduce the number of required comprehensive exams for the Master's program from four to three exams.

At our meeting in October approval was given to the Education department for the creation of a separate track for the Art Education field of the MAT program. Approval was also given for the Education department's residency collaboration with the Advanced Math & Science Academy Charter School. This collaboration is similar to the Tufts program established with Shady Hill School.

In November the committee approved new courses in the Education department to support the Fulcrum Institute for in-service teachers. Also approved were two new graduate courses in the Psychology Department, Psy244 Memory and Retention and Psy224 Neuroscience of Perception. In the Math Department changes to their qualifying exams expanding student choices were approved.

The committee also discussed several topics at the November meeting including academic conflict and the processes that are in place in the various departments to deal with such issues, and the role of the graduate advisor and how it varies from department to department. The committee discussed the plan to change the doctoral tuition charge so that it will be spread over

5 years instead of the current 3 year period, and allow GSAS a mechanism to subsidize health insurance.

At the January meeting a proposal for a new Master of Science degree for in Economics was presented and discussed by the committee. At the February meeting the committee approved the department's proposal to offer a Master of Science degree with two tracks: a one year, course-based track and a two year thesis-based track.

In April the committee approved a curriculum change to the MA program in the Department of Philosophy to include a graduate writing seminar focused on writing skills in Philosophy. The committee approved changing the requirements for the MA in Education Studies so that an internship was no longer required.

The committee also discussed the merits of having courses that were audited, recorded on the students' transcripts and the committee decided that this subject needed further research and should be revisited at another time.

At the final meeting of the year approval was given for revisions to the School Psychology program required for re-approval from the National Association of School Psychologists by September 2010. Included in their proposed revisions was the request to award the Education Specialist degree for the program of study that is currently awarded the Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study. The committee approved of the request but noted that a proposal for a new degree following the Provost's Office guidelines would need to be submitted.

Discussion continued regarding the role of the graduate advisor, how to monitor the progress of graduate students and how to advise graduate students when dealing with situations involving academic conflict. The dean also advised the committee that she will be working on revising the Graduate School Committee Bylaws including the Policy and Programs committee and welcomed any input from the committee.