

# Duke University

Durham  
North Carolina  
27708-0928

ACADEMIC COUNCIL  
304 UNION WEST  
BOX 90928

## Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Academic Council

PHONE(919)684-6447  
FAX(919)681-8606  
EMAIL: ACOUNCIL@ACPUB.DUKE.EDU

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The Academic Council of Duke University met from 4:41 until 5:07 p.m., directly following the Annual Meeting of the University Faculty with the customary addresses by the President and the Chair of the Academic Council. Both meetings were held in the usual location, 139 Social Sciences, with President Nannerl Keohane presiding over the Faculty meeting and Council Chair Prof. **Leonard** Spicer (RAD, BCH) presiding over the Council meeting. In calling the Council meeting to order the **Chair** acknowledged with appreciation the service that Prof. **Robert Mosteller** (Law) had provided as Vice Chair in filling in while he himself had been detained longer than expected by jury duty, including presiding at the September meeting of the Council.

### MINUTES

The minutes of that last meeting of September 18, which were included in the pre-circulated packets with everyone having had a chance to look at them, were offered for consideration by the Council. Comment was invited and then a motion to approve. By voice vote, the **minutes of September 18 were approved**, without discussion or dissent.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

As an announcement the **Chair** took sad note of the passing of one of our Council members and faculty colleagues, Prof. Melvyn Lieberman, just this week, as most will know. Mel was on leave from the Council this semester and up until the time of his illness had been an active member of our community. He had participated not only on the Council, as many would know and appreciate, but served the University generously in numerous other capacities. We'll miss him as a friend and colleague. It was noted that a memorial fund is being established within the Department of Cell Biology, in honor of Prof. Lieberman and in support graduate education, for those who care to contribute.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

As the first order of its regular business the Council went into Executive Session (faculty only) for the purpose of hearing a first report of those proposed for honorary degrees. [The report may be reviewed by faculty members at the Academic Council office, 304 West Campus Union.] At the conclusion of this business the meeting was again opened to all persons interested to attend.

## RE-NAMING THE DEGREE MASTER OF HEALTH SCIENCES IN BIOMETRY AS MASTER OF HEALTH SCIENCES IN CLINICAL RESEARCH

The Council next considered a proposal from the Medical Center to change the name of the current Master of Health Sciences in Biometry degree to Master of Health Sciences in Clinical Research. Documentation about that change was included among the materials pre-circulated for this meeting, and a draft resolution will be provided for study before a vote on this matter, which will occur at the next meeting. Dr. Gordon Hammes, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs for the Medical Center, was present to explain the proposed change and entertain any questions about it.

V. Chancellor **Gordon Hammes** (Academic Affairs) considered the change pretty straightforward but gave a bit of history and then presented the rationale for it. A program was started about ten years ago, which was designed primarily for fellows and house staff at Duke to learn how to do clinical research. At that time clinical research primarily involved clinical trials, and so the program included a fair amount of statistics and other research methods, leading to the degree of Master of Health Science in Biometry. In the time since, clinical research has changed considerably, becoming an increasingly important part of every academic medical center's portfolio. Beyond that earlier emphasis on clinical trials it has come to involve evaluation of cost effective medicine, epidemiology, and finding genes associated with specific diseases, so that it has now become a much broader subject. It also is of much greater interest to researchers and to the public at large because it is this sort of research that directly leads to improvements in health care.

Two years ago, at a retreat of all the chairs of the Medical Center with the administration, there was a groundswell of opinion that we should really enhance our efforts in clinical research both on the research side and on the training side. As a result, the Biometry curriculum was actually considerably changed, and made much more intensive. Much more thorough grounding in statistics and epidemiology was provided, and it was agreed that the greater breadth now of this initiative should be recognized by a change in the name of the degree, from Master of Health Sciences in Biometry to Master of Health Sciences in Clinical Research.

The curriculum currently offered, which is available in its entirety for those interested to see it, has this new emphasis. It includes a substantial thesis experience in actually doing clinical research, as well as much heavier training in epidemiology and statistics. There are currently about twenty students enrolled in this curriculum. Although it is currently used primarily for training our health staff, it will have a much broader audience. Health

professionals everywhere are seeking this kind of training because of its direct impact on health care.

With that explanation provided as an overview the Council was asked to consider approval of the proposed name change in the degree. The resolution, which was handed around during V. Chan. Hammes's presentation, is as follows:

**WHEREAS, the degree Master of Health Sciences in Biometry is an existing approved degree in the School of Medicine and the School is requesting the name be changed to Master of Health Sciences in Clinical Research; and**

**WHEREAS, this name change has the support of the Medical School Policy Advisory Committee, the Academic Priorities Committee, the Provost and the Executive Committee of the Academic Council; and**

**WHEREAS, it is expected that the program of study leading to the degree Master of Health Sciences in Clinical Research will be reviewed at the end of three years;**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Academic Council endorses the request that the Master of Health Sciences in Biometry degree be renamed the Master of Health Sciences in Clinical Research and that this endorsement be forwarded to the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees for approval.**

#### **Discussion of the Proposed Change in Name of the Degree to Master of Health Sciences in Clinical Research**

In inviting discussion the **Chair** noted the mention in the handout resolution that the Academic Priorities Committee has reviewed the proposed change. The APC talked quite extensively about the program with those involved. As may be noted, the resolution also includes an expectation that the study program that leads to this degree will be reviewed after a period of three years through an internal review, following the regular procedures used in the past for supporting such changes. Opportunity for discussion was then invited, but there were no questions or comments offered. The **Chair** thanked V. Chan. Hammes and noted that this item will be on the agenda at the next meeting for any further discussion that may be offered at that time, when the resolution is scheduled to be put to a vote.

#### **NCAA REACCREDITATION**

The **Chair** introduced the final agenda item of the meeting, a part of the important reaccreditation process that the University is currently engaged in, and in particular our reaccreditation by the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association). Sr. V. Pres. Charles Putman (Research Administration Policy) and Asst. V. Pres. Christopher Kennedy

(Athletic Department) have been mentoring this very extensive process and have provided some materials in summary form. Since the format required by the NCAA may seem a bit unusual Dr. Kennedy has kindly added an introduction for the Council's assistance. The full report is available in the Academic Council office for those interested to see it.

Coming to the lectern to explain the report to the Council, Sr. V. Pres. **Charles Putman** added that the executive summary is also on the Web [[www.goduke.com/cert9798.html](http://www.goduke.com/cert9798.html)]. The NCAA certification of our Department of Athletics is a process that really started about sixteen months ago, with the appointment of a committee by President Keohane. That Steering Committee includes representatives of the student body, the faculty, and the administration. He proposed then to highlight some of the points that will be discussed with the external site visit team when it arrives on the Duke campus this next week. Present also at this time were Profs. Thomas Spragens (PS) and Marion Shepard (Assoc. Dean, EGR) who chaired committees involving governance and academic integrity, respectively. Also present was V. Pres. John Adcock (Controller) from the administration, representing [the committee effort on] fiscal integrity.

To review some of the findings, the study overall was very positive in the sense of finding no major problems whatsoever in the four key areas that the NCAA is interested in ~ Governance [and Commitment to Rules Compliance], Fiscal Integrity, Academic Integrity, and [Commitment to Equity]. The recommendations are, number one, that the Provost conduct a study looking at scheduling of academic classes [in relation to athletic commitments]. There is suggestion that some of our student athletes may have some problems with laboratory class times that might be rearranged. A second area of recommendation is our continued commitment to the improvement of intercollegiate experience for women student-athletes, including the expansion of our recreational facilities for weight training as well as the new plan for bringing Duke into compliance with Title IX. At the time the report was submitted in August of 1996 we had not yet developed the ten-year plan, which was [instituted] subsequently. That Plan includes the introduction of women's crew as a new intercollegiate sport, with another [women's] sport to be added by the year 2000. Within nine to ten years we will be in full compliance with Title IX.

[Third], the expansion of our West Campus recreational facilities will enable the strength and conditioning program to be enhanced. [Fourth], we are also suggesting that the student-athlete exit interview, which is a normal occurrence at the end of college, before graduation, should be conducted by an official outside the Athletic Department. This change was actually suggested by Chris Kennedy — who was attending the ACC commission today and could not be here. He feels that it would be better if the individual(s) interviewing these student athletes were not directly associated with the Athletic Department. As a [fifth] suggestion the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee should be used in a more proactive way to communicate points of concern or suggestions to the Athletic Department and to the senior administration.

We're also suggesting [sixth] that the Athletic Department develop and sponsor formal diversity workshops for all those who work directly with minority student-athletes, and [seventh] that our Athletic Council establish a standing Committee on Compliance, which is now managed in an ad hoc way.

Those are the recommendations that will be discussed [with the site visit team] this next week. **Putman** offered himself and his colleagues present from the Reaccreditation Steering Committee to answer any questions the Council attendees might have.

By way of inviting questions the **Chair** said that it was heartening to note that we are in compliance, not that any of us doubted that for a moment, but there are always improvements possible. He appreciated the pointing out of these various things that have been looked at so very carefully. As mentioned earlier, the full document is in the Council office, for those interested. It's rather extensive, but it does aim towards these specific points in addition to a number of other mandated pieces of information.

There being no further business on the agenda, or offered from the floor, the Council adjourned.

Presented for consideration by the Academic Council, Donald J.

Fluke, Faculty Secretary of the Academic Council.