



## Graduate Studies & Research

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### Graduate Council Minutes

August 27, 2002

Members present were Drs. Parette, Athinarayanan, Barnes, Brown, Buchanan, Desai, Elder, Milde, Randolph, and Raschke.

Dean Parette presented the proposal that had been discussed by the Administration to consolidate the School of Graduate Studies and Research with the School of University Studies. Members expressed concerns regarding the impact of such a consolidation of the quality of graduate education at Southeast. A motion was made by Dr. Buchanan that a resolution be drafted to voice its opposition to such restructuring. The motion was unanimously accepted by the Council. The general content of the resolution was to reflect (a) opposition to the proposed restructuring, (b) statements regarding the potential negative impact on graduate education, and (c) a recommendation that other cost saving alternatives (e.g., reallocation of graduate assistant resources) be considered by the Administration. Dean Parette was asked to draft the resolution and to forward it to all Graduate Council members with a request that each member assume responsibility for sharing the resolution with constituents and determining an appropriate response.

### Action Taken

Immediately following the 8/27/02 meeting the following was mailed to all Council members:

The following resolution was prepared based on a unanimous vote by the Graduate Council on August 27, 2002. The following will be presented to the Office of the President this date. Also, as per our discussion, please disseminate the resolution to your graduate faculty colleagues.

The Graduate Council felt that each representative should have discretion to distribute the information as deemed appropriate that could include, but not be limited to (a) direct distribution via email and hard copy, (b) personal contact, and (c) meetings with groups of faculty members. Each program should then determine how they should respond, e.g., a letter indicating the position of a program/department with signatures of those faculty supporting a particular position and alternatives to restructuring, (b) direct email

correspondence to the Office of the President, or (c) other responses deemed appropriate by the program/department.

## **RESOLUTION**

The Graduate Council of Southeast Missouri State University having met on August 27, 2002, and discussed issues of academic restructuring that have been presented to the campus community subsequent to budget deficits confronted by the University, and prior to faculty forums to be conducted on campus, have *unanimously agreed* that:

1. Consolidation of the School of University Studies with the School of Graduate Studies and Research is an unacceptable restructuring response.
2. Decentralization of the School of Graduate Studies and Research would have far-reaching and potentially detrimental effects on the (a) quality of graduate education provided at Southeast, and (b) perceptions held by students and the general public regarding the institutional commitment to graduate education.
3. Other cost-saving alternatives to such radical restructuring have yet to be fully considered and evaluated by the campus community. Examples might include, but not be limited to:
  - Withdrawing institutional commitments for stipends and fee waivers for targeted graduate assistant positions that are not directly tied to academic programs.
  - Linking targeted graduate assistantships to grant (vs. institutional) funding.
  - Cost-sharing targeted graduate assistantships with departments/units.
  - Other alternatives that could emerge subsequent to appropriate discussions and informed decision-making.