Presented to the Mānoa Faculty Senate on February 18, 2015 by the Senate Executive Committee, a motion on the restructuring of CoRGE and Graduate Council. The motion was approved by the Manoa Faculty Senate on February 18, 2015 with 30 votes in favor, 8 votes in opposition and 4 votes abstained.

SEC MOTION ON THE RESTRUCTURING OF CORGE AND GRADUATE COUNCIL

(1) Whereas, the current relationship between the Manoa Faculty Senate and the College of Graduate Education is bedeviled by two serious problems: 1) the extreme difficulty of finding enough suitably experienced and willing senators and faculty members (i.e., people with prior experience as department chairs or graduate chairs) to stock both Graduate Council and the Senate’s Committee on Research and Graduate Education (CoRGE), and 2) the extremely cumbersome current process of having new graduate degree programs and policy changes pass through four distinct faculty bodies for approval (i.e., Graduate Council’s Program Subcommittee, Graduate Council itself, CoRGE, and then finally the Manoa Faculty Senate), a process which often requires more than an entire calendar year to complete; and

Whereas, Graduate Council now relies upon the Committee for Faculty Service for the nomination of its normal members, and relies upon the Senate Executive Committee for the nomination of its Senate representatives; and

Whereas, this means that there are always at least two or three members of Graduate Council who are, as its Senate representatives, both senators and faculty with prior experience as graduate chairs; and

Whereas, the current proposal has the complete support of the Dean of the College of Graduate Education, and the approval of Graduate Council;

Therefore, the MFSEC moves that:

1) The Committee on Research and Graduate Education will revert to the structure it had up until four years ago, as the Committee on Research, which means that the constituency requirement that now attends upon the selection of its membership will be eliminated, and the committee will henceforth consist of no fewer than nine and no more than twelve members, taxed with the oversight of only those aspects of its current responsibilities that relate clearly to faculty research; and

2) The newly reconfigured Committee on Research will play no direct role in the approval of any new graduate degree programs or certificates or significant policy changes affecting graduate education, all of which will henceforth go directly from Graduate Council to the Manoa Faculty Senate as a whole for approval; and

3) Henceforth the Senate Executive Committee will ensure that there are always two Senate representatives serving on Graduate Council, for staggered two-year terms; and

4) One of the two Manoa Faculty Senate representatives to Graduate Council serving in any given year will be invited by the Dean of Graduate Education to chair Graduate Council’s Program Committee, and to steer any proposals for new graduate degree programs or certificates, as well as any significant policy changes relating to graduate education, through the Senate for approval; and

5) The Senate Executive Committee will henceforth select with great care, and as quickly as possible in the academic year, its Senate representatives to Graduate Council, being duly
conscious of the need to nominate (for the Dean of Graduate Education’s approval) only appropriately experienced senators for this role, and conscious of the additional responsibilities such representatives will shoulder; and

6) The appointment of any Senate representative to Graduate Council will henceforth count as satisfying that senator’s committee service obligation to the Senate.

SEC MOTION ON THE RESTRUCTURING OF CORGE AND GRADUATE COUNCIL

(II)

Whereas, the current relationship between the Manoa Faculty Senate and the College of Graduate Education is bedeviled by two serious problems: 1) the extreme difficulty of finding enough suitably experienced and willing senators and faculty members (i.e., people with prior experience as department chairs or graduate chairs) to stock both Graduate Council and the Senate’s Committee on Research and Graduate Education (CoRGE), and 2) the extremely cumbersome current process of having new graduate degree programs and policy changes pass through four distinct faculty bodies for approval (i.e., Graduate Council’s Program Subcommittee, Graduate Council itself, CoRGE, and then finally the Manoa Faculty Senate), a process which often requires more than an entire calendar year to complete; and

Whereas, Graduate Council now relies upon the Committee for Faculty Service for the nomination of its normal members, and relies upon the Senate Executive Committee for the nomination of its Senate representatives; and

Whereas, this means that there are always at least two or three members of Graduate Council who are, as its Senate representatives, both senators and faculty with prior experience as graduate chairs; and

Whereas, the current proposal has the complete support of the Dean of the College of Graduate Education, and the approval of Graduate Council;

Therefore, the MFSEC moves that the Bylaws of the Faculty Congress and Senate of the University of Hawai’i at Manoa shall be changed as follows:

1) Article IV, Section 1, under Standing Committees, the phrase “Committee on Research” is to replace “Committee on Research and Graduate Education,”

2) Article IV, Section 1, item m, the phrase “Committee on Research” is to replace “Committee on Research and Graduate Education” in the title of the item,

3) Article IV, Section 1, item m, the second full paragraph, including the list of eight constituencies, is to be excised,

4) Article IV, Section 1, item m, the first full paragraph is to be rewritten as:

The Committee is responsible for matters relating to the planning, direction, initiation, development, and coordination of faculty research. The Committee shall review policies and procedures for the support of the research enterprise, both for externally funded research and for internally funded/faculty-funded research. The Committee shall review proposals for improvements in research infrastructure, new research initiatives, or restructuring existing research programs. The Committee shall review the mechanisms by which funds are allocated in support of research. The Committee shall review policies dealing with compliance with Federal and State regulations.
5) Article III, Section 5, item 11 is to be renumbered item 12,
6) Article III, Section 5, a new item 11 is to be introduced, reading:

Appoint each year (to serve a two-year term) a Senate representative to Graduate Council. This representative must be someone with prior experience as a department graduate chair (or, failing that, prior experience as a department chair) who is also an experienced Manoa Faculty Senator, with the understanding that this representative will serve a one-year term as Chair of Graduate Council’s Program Subcommittee and represent Graduate Council before the Manoa Faculty Senate whenever resolutions from Graduate Council require MFS approval.