GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES
March 15, 2018
1:00 PM

GRINTER HALL ROOM 110

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Henry Frierson (Chair), Dr. Karen Bjorndal, Dr. David Bloom, Dr. Kendal Broad-Wright, Dr. Warren Dixon, Dr. Tom Frazer, Dr. Christopher Hass, Dr. Raymond Issa, Dr. James McLeskey, Dr. Sihong Song, Dr. Jane Southworth, Mr. Seth Assan (GSC alternate)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Bruce MacFadden, Dr. Mahendrarajah Nimalendran, Ms. Madeline Sciullo (GSC rep)

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. Alyson Adams (College of Education), Dr. Brian Marchman (Distance and Continuing Education), Mr. Robert McGarrah (Office of Admissions), Mr. Steve Pritz (Office of the University Registrar)

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Paul Duncan, Dr. Judy Traveis, Ms. Stacy Wallace

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

I. ACTION ITEMS:

1. **Minutes from the February 15, 2017 Graduate Council meeting.** A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

CERTIFICATE:

2. **Proposal from the College of Education for a new graduate certificate in Secondary Teaching Preparation (#12095).** Dr. Alyson Adams was present for discussion.
   GC Member: The requirements indicate the certificate is eighteen hours made up of six online courses, but one of the courses suggests there's an element where the student has to be in a classroom.
   Dr. Adams: ESE 6945 Student Teaching in Secondary School is an online shell where students submit assignments but have a field placement. I can add the ten week field placement to the requirements if that will make it clearer.
   GC Member: Two of the five courses are not yet approved.
   Dr. Adams: The course proposals are pending at the college level. One proposal is for a name change and one is for a new course.
   Dr. Frierson: Are there any plans to introduce this program to graduating seniors?
   Dr. Adams: That's our primary audience.
   GC Member: One of the requirements is to pass Florida teacher certification in order to get this certificate. Can we have an outside body dictate the requirements of a UF degree or certificate?
   Dr. Duncan: We've had conversations with the program about this as well as the admission requirement of a 2.5 GPA, which is above the UF requirement for certificates. The Graduate School's stance is it is up the academic unit seeking the certificate to choose to impose additional requirements.
   Dr. Adams: All teacher preparatory programs have these requirements, and all of our programs carry these external requirements from the state of Florida. At the bachelor level there is a test after which students receive a stamp that they have completed a state of Florida teacher prep program.
   GC Member: The Student Learning Objectives seem very broad.

Dr. Duncan: The Graduate School and Graduate Council only need to confirm the SLOs exist; Dr. Tim Brophy evaluates the SLOs.
Dr. Adams: The SLOs are written from the exact language of the Florida Accomplished Education Practices. There is a rubric with four categories and forty items; this is one.
GC Member: The title of one of the proposed courses, Data-Driven Decision Making, is very broad.
Dr. Duncan: This is the kind of concern the GCC would have, and they would suggest a more specific title, perhaps including an emphasis on education.
A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

2018-2021 BALLOT:

3. **Approval of the ballot for election to Graduate Council 2018-2021.**
GC Member: Where did the names on the ballot come from and how do we ensure distribution across all colleges?
GC Member: Members who are rotating off form a committee to replace themselves. Typically, they will know people in similar fields, but the ballot is approved by Gradaute Council and all graduate faculty members are eligible to vote.
Dr. Duncan: It is a Graduate Council bylaw that the nominating committee provide the names for the ballot, but we could solicit university-wide for additional names by emailing the deans or graduate associate deans.
A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

II. <u>DISCUSSION ITEM:</u>

4. **Policy on Dual Degrees.** Dr. Duncan was present for discussion.
Dr. Duncan: Dual degrees are not routine but are possible. The goal of this document was to establish a framework by which Graduate Council could review these proposals. I authored this document with much input by the Graduate School staff as well as Dr. Hass.
GC Member: I thought it was very clear and well-written and was a great response to the minutes.
GC Member: Number 2 on the document indicates it's a requirement to have a fully executed MOU in place. Is that on a university to university level between UF and the other institution?
Dr. Duncan: It's institution to institution, and UF has dozens of these agreements. Many are general agreements to collaborate and some are quite specific.
GC Member: If the student and the mentor spent time developing the dual PhD proposal but the university didn't have an MOU in place that would be quite time-consuming. Number 4 of the document says the agreement should be initiated in the student's first year.
GC Member: Who evaluates what constitutes a "partner institution of stature" as referred to in number 1 of the document?
Dr. Duncan: It's hard to imagine a UF faculty member who has established a collaborative relationship with a faculty member at another institution wanting to propose a dual degree if they were not from a partner institution of stature, although it is conceivable that good faculty can be at less-than-stellar places. But these proposals will come to the Graduate School and to the Graduate Council to evaluate.
Dr. Frierson: It may be useful for Graduate Council to look at that section and provide suggestions for wording.
GC Member: My issue is an academic one in that if they're using UF information criteria and a UF dissertation to get another degree, we should be in control of that. Students will be caught in self-plagiarism, so there needs to be an agreement in place that says this document will satisfy the criteria for a PhD.
GC Member: The section about the dissertation differentiates these as dual degrees rather than joint degrees. People interested in joint degrees are going to look at this as an avenue to do that. Is there

language regarding joint degrees that should be included in this document to differentiate between them?
Dr. Frierson: There are no more joint degrees.
Dr. Duncan: Unless the agreement is between two accredited universities, joint degrees are very difficult.
GC Member: Maybe that explanation could be added to the document.
Dr. Duncan: I don't anticipate these proposals will ever be common, as they require investments from both universities and multiple labs and because the proposal requirements so steep. UF is an international institution and we want to be on that playing field, but we do not do it casually. We evaluate one case at a time.
GC Member: I think that's a really important point, that these allow us to take advantage of unique opportunities.
GC Member: I like the idea of international collaboration. But, if a student completes the dual degree program, they will have two degrees in the same area. What is the sense of that and is it really that beneficial to the student?
Dr. Duncan: These have typically been more faculty-driven than student-driven. They have been established because a faculty member has been working in a particular line of inquiry that would be enhanced by collaborating with someone working in the same intellectual area. In the case of dual degrees, neither institution would "own" the student, project or degree. In the second half of the definition paragraph of the document, I tried to speak explicitly to that issue. There must be demonstrable synergies, collaboration, equipment or other attributes that add value.
GC Member: How do we promote these dual degrees?
GC Member: I participate in international collaboration often but would not ever consider a dual degree for any of my students. Students are not going to have access to these unless they are fully invested and under very unusual circumstances. We should not announce these with fanfare since they are really for extenuating circumstances.
GC Member: It's very important to communicate this policy without promoting these.
GC Member: Promotion is not the correct word, but rather these are an opportunity. We should let people know the opportunity exists and not try to hide it.
GC Member: It would seem by not promoting the dual degrees that we are not comfortable with this policy we have created.
GC Member: We say these aren't common, but we have seemed to review a number of them.
Dr. Duncan: Looking back at the last few years, I would say we average two per year.
GC Member: If this document was already on the website, some proposals that have come forward may not have done so knowing they didn't meet the requirements of the policy. So this document may reduce the caseload.
GC Member: This document gives the Graduate Council the parameters under which it may withhold approval of a proposed dual degree proposal.
Dr. Duncan: Please provide any feedback you may have for additions, corrections, or deletions within two weeks. I can then incorporate your suggestions and get the document back before you for action at April's meeting.

III. <u>INFORMATION ITEMS:</u>

5. Date of April Graduate Council meeting.
   Dr. Duncan: The April Graduate Council meeting will be held one day prior to the regularly scheduled meeting as most of the Graduate School will be at the Conference of Florida Graduate Schools in Tallahassee. The meeting will be Wednesday, April 18.

6. Graduate Programs – Online and Self-Funded (No new items).

The meeting was adjourned at 1:51 p.m.