

MINUTES

GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING

OCTOBER 27, 1994

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karen A. Holbrook, Chair; Karen A. Bjorndal, William Chamberlin, Patricia Craddock, Nicolae Cristescu, Joan Herrera, David A. Jones, Mary Grace Kantowski, Philip Posner, Rachel Shireman, Richard Yost

OTHERS PRESENT: Jack L. Fry, Evelyn Williams, Ted A. Broome, Jean Casagrande, Linda Crocker, Lisa Gregory, Gene Hemp, Charles A. Sninsky, Kathi Kitner

STAFF PRESENT: Richard Lutz, Helen Martin, Phyl Schmidt, Julie Shih, Bernice Thornton

The Graduate Council meeting opened at 1:00 p.m.

I. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Dr. Lutz informed the Council of the status of the Specialist in Education degree. Some confusion had existed regarding the use of the specialist degree (in addition to a Master's degree) in counting toward the Ph.D. In actuality, the specialist degree is a stepping stone between a masters and Ph.D. and typically reflects first-year Ph.D. coursework. Therefore, a Ph.D. student in education may count credits from both a masters and specialist degree toward the Ph.D. Dr. Linda Crocker, Assistant Dean in the College of Education, was present to answer questions.
2. An idea for a graduate student newsletter was discussed. Several suggestions were made, including the desirability of having the Graduate Student Council actively involved in the planning and implementation of the newsletter, soliciting input from the Graduate Coordinators' Advisory Group and the Graduate Dean's group, and having an editorial board to manage the newsletter.

II. ACTION ITEMS

1. Minutes of the September 15, 1994 Council meeting were approved with minor corrections. It was noted that the expanded form of the minutes was helpful, particularly for those members of Council who had missed the September meeting.
2. Vice Provost Hemp discussed the need to revise the current Graduate School policy that students with fewer than 30 credit hours may not be

appointed at more than .50 percent FTE, in order to properly compensate TAs teaching in Summer A and B terms. After discussing a number of options, it was moved and seconded that a blanket exemption to the 30-hour rule be granted for the Summer term. (Because of immigration laws, this exemption does not apply to international students.) The motion carried unanimously.

3. The Council considered petitions from two individuals wishing to pursue the Ph.D. while being employed full-time by the University, Ms. Kathi Kitner and Mr. Ted Broome. Both were approved unanimously. The Council advised that in cases where there is clearly no conflict of interest involved, such petitions may be handled by the Graduate School. In cases that are not so clear-cut, Council may be asked to approve. Prior to discussion of the two present cases, there was a discussion of the desirability and legality of having the Council's student representatives participate in deliberations involving individual student issues. Both the legal issue and the policy question will be researched further with Bill Chamberlin and the University General Counsel.
4. A proposal from Linguistics to offer a joint program in the teaching of English as a foreign language with the Versailles Chamber of Commerce was approved unanimously. The program entails a transfer of 15 credits from Versailles to UF. Their students must meet UF admission standards first. The Versailles program is a high quality program, according to Dr. Casagrande, and the potential for two-way interchange of both students and faculty is possible in the future. A discussion ensued regarding the possible implications of this decision campus-wide. Many students would like to transfer credits to UF from other institutions. The difference here is that this is a formal program, not just ad hoc transfer of credits. The desirability of formalizing this and other similar relationships in writing was discussed, suggesting the need for some University guidelines in this regard.
5. A proposal to permit graduate students to enroll in non-required graduate courses on an S/U basis was discussed at length. Ms. Lisa Gregory, a Ph.D. student in Zoology, presented the case in favor of the policy. It would allow students to pursue a broader array of coursework without risk to their GPAs; yet, both they and their instructors in S/U courses would receive official credit for taking and teaching the course, respectively. Auditing the course does not offer these advantages. Monitoring S/U enrollment to ensure that the course is outside the student's major field of study is an important obstacle; ideally, the policy could be effected without the need for monitoring by the Graduate School. S/U graded courses would count toward total enrollment hours for the purpose of holding an assistantship, but would not count toward graduation. The topic was tabled, with the directive by Council to draft a policy and solicit input through the *Exchange* prior to the next Council meeting.

6. After some discussion led by Dr. Jack Fry, Council unanimously approved the following changes sought by IFAS:
 - a. Credit toward the Master of Agriculture degree for courses taken through the Division of Continuing Education is no longer limited to 24 credits. This change is necessitated by, and reflective of, the increasing use of distance learning technologies.
 - b. A non-thesis M.S. degree is added under the Department of Soil and Water Science.
 - c. The title of the non-thesis degree in the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences is changed from Master of Arts to Master of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences.

7. A revision to current Graduate School policy that permits departments to petition the Graduate School to continue for one semester only, a stipend and tuition payment for a first-semester student whose GPA is below 3.0 was discussed and approved by a 7-1 vote. The dissenting vote reflected a concern that some parts of campus are on a different schedule and that some courses may run longer than a single semester in length. The majority opinion was that such cases could be handled effectively by petition and that the new policy needed to be in place as soon as possible, as the end of the Fall semester was approaching.

The remaining action items and all discussion items on the agenda were postponed to a later meeting of the Council. The Graduate Council adjourned at 3:40 p.m.