

MINUTES  
GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 17, 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, Gene Hemp

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

The Graduate Council meeting was called to order with Dr. Lutz presiding in Dean Holbrook's absence.

I. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Vice Provost Hemp discussed the University's tuition payment situation, in response to a series of articles in the *Alligator* that had contained some misinformation. He also described the new variable tuition proposal that he expects will win approval by the BOR and the Legislature. The matriculation fee would be increased by 4% in Fall 1995 and another 4% in Spring 1996 and remain at the total 8% increase thereafter. (Vice Provost Hemp noted that, even with an 8% increase in the matriculation fee, UF's total fee would still be the lowest in the SUS.)

The tuition increase would generate approximately \$3.6 million, of which \$1.2 million is tentatively to be allocated to graduate fellowships for students completing the Ph.D. or a professional degree. Other service enhancements (e.g., library, telephone registration) would be funded as well.

Vice Provost Hemp then clarified the present status of the tuition payment policy. He affirmed that, regardless of a student's academic department, the department hiring the student as a graduate assistant is responsible for the tuition payment. Consideration (but as yet not a final decision) is being given to converting "non-academic" assistantships to OPS positions; however, any such conversion would not be implemented during the 1994-95 academic year.

The current thinking is that, in the Spring, RAs employed by a contract or grant will be charged to their colleges at some yet-to-be-specified proportion of the in-state tuition. This will avoid discrimination against international or out-of-state students in hiring. The process involves the Provost's office billing the Office of Research and Graduate Education, which in turn bills the colleges, whose responsibility it is to collect the funds and pay the bill. All tuition payment commitments will be met. (The foregoing does not apply to IFAS or Engineering.)

All fellowships will continue to receive tuition payments from the University, subject to the provision that no duties are required of the fellowship recipient. This applies to Fulbrights and other externally-funded fellowships, as well as to fellowships funded by state dollars. Due to new IRS regulations, beginning in Fall 1995 fellowships will be paid in lump sums once or twice a year rather than biweekly.

Dr. Hemp noted that, despite the concerns expressed by departments and PIs, it would be "penny-wise and pound-foolish" not to pick up the to-be-specified portion of a GA's tuition. In those areas of the University that operate on formula-driven funding, the loss of funds due to decreased student credit hours would be greater than the amount saved by not admitting the student and paying the tuition differential.

Dr. Hemp concluded by stating that no memorandum clarifying these issues for the campus at large was anticipated at this time. Meetings have been held with all College deans to communicate this information. He did agree that disseminating this information via the *Exchange* would be a good idea.

General discussion of tuition-related issues ensued, including the need for more information on how a student can achieve Florida residency status. It would also be useful to encourage deans to communicate to their faculty how they intend to bill them for tuition payments.

Dean Holbrook joined the meeting at this time.

## II. ACTION ITEMS

1. The minutes of the October 27, 1994, meeting were approved.
2. The proposed statement for the constitution regarding the Graduate Council election procedure and the criteria for Graduate Faculty status was tabled. Some previously approved language pertaining to the appointment of new faculty hires to the Graduate Faculty was missing.
3. The guidelines for UF faculty pursuing graduate degrees at UF were amended as follows:

- I. "Faculty members who maintain a tenured or tenure-accruing position . . . normally may not pursue a graduate degree. . .
- II. "Faculty members who maintain a nontenure-accruing position . . . normally may not pursue a graduate degree. . . no overlap, conflict of interest, or conflict of commitment, between the employment unit and the department . . ."
- II.3 The faculty member must present a plan of study and employment covering the entire period of graduate study from the time of admission until the completion of the degree requirements. It is expected that during the period of concentrated study, the faculty member will work at a reduced FTE level.

The policy, thus amended, was approved unanimously.

- 4. A long discussion of the S/U policy in graduate courses raised a number of very difficult procedural issues in implementing an S/U option. For example, determining if a course is required by the student's supervisory committee would be an administrative nightmare. After much discussion, a motion to deny Ms. Lisa Gregory's petition to allow courses to be taken on an S/U basis received a split vote, which was broken by the Chair in favor of the motion. Thus, the current policy of not permitting the S/U option in graduate courses was upheld. As an alternative, it was suggested by Council that the Graduate School encourage the Registrar to list as "Audited" on the transcript all courses formally audited by the student. This was put in the form of a motion and passed unanimously.

### III. DISCUSSION ITEM

A preliminary discussion of the Drug Discovery program was held. It was agreed to schedule a special meeting sometime in December to deliberate this matter. In advance of the meeting, Council members will be sent the complete file on the program, including the original proposal, past Graduate Council action on it, and letters from the Council subcommittee members who commented on the most recent proposal. It was also suggested that a recently-approved program (such as Animal, Molecular and Cell Biology in IFAS) be sent to Dr. Bodor, together with a copy of the guidelines for submitting such programs for consideration.

The Council regretfully accepted the resignation of Ms. Evelyn Williams, the graduate student alternate member, and acknowledged its appreciation of her contributions to Council over the past year. A letter and certificate will be prepared for her.

Dean Holbrook informed Council that Dr. Catherine (Cappy) Longstreth advises that the student members of Council should remain in the room for all deliberations, even those involving other students' petitions.

The remaining discussion items on the agenda were tabled until the December 15, 1994 meeting. The Graduate Council adjourned at 4:10 p.m.