

MINUTES
GRADUATE COUNCIL
JANUARY 19, 1995

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Karen A. Holbrook, Chair; Scotty Powers

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Nicholas Bodor, Dr. Margaret James, Dr. Leilani Doty, Dean Michael Schwartz, Dr. Kenneth Sloan, Ms. Ruth Trocolli

STAFF PRESENT: Helen Martin, Julie Shih, Bernice Thornton

STAFF ABSENT: Michael Phillip, Phyl Schmidt

The Graduate Council meeting was called to order by Dr. Richard Lutz at 1:00 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

1. The Minutes of the December 15 and December 16, 1994, meetings of the Graduate Council were approved, with one minor typographical correction being made to the, former.
2. The Graduate Specialization in Drug Discovery was discussed at length. The Council spent several minutes reviewing a letter and other materials from Drs. James and Bergeron. Questions were addressed to both Dean Schwartz and Dr. Bodor by Council members, and Dr. James and Dr. Sloan shared their concerns with the Council. The suggestion was made that the program be listed as a subspecialization rather than a specialization, similar to the program in Mammalian Genetics, but that proposal was not met with much enthusiasm. It was seen as possibly diminishing the stature of Drug Discovery, and it is not clear what, if any, criteria exist for subspecializations within the University.

The Council focused its discussion on the program vis-a-vis the needs of students. However, the issues of the administrative situation within the College of Pharmacy and the interactions of faculty were so pervasive that it was difficult to ignore them completely. Nonetheless, the primary criterion used by the Council was whether or not the program would serve students well, including safeguards and clearly specified procedures for their education. Several points were raised in that regard:

The College of Pharmacy does not have in place a Graduate Committee that provides oversight for the graduate programs within the College, including the proposed program in Drug Discovery, and that serves as a mechanism for resolving faculty/student disagreements

and approving recommended changes in courses and curriculum. This permits the situation, as in the case of the Drug Discovery Program, where the research lab of one faculty member may have the sole control over a graduate program, establish its curriculum, and put in place policies without department or college oversight and approval.

It appears that the sole reason for proposing the program in Drug Discovery is to resolve a dispute among faculty in the College, which does not appear to be an action that is in the best interest of students. Such issues are not, and should not be, within the purview of Graduate Council deliberation, but in this case it bears strongly on judgments of the program's ability to address the needs of students.

In spite of the written clarifying material and discussion, there still appeared to be a high degree of overlap between the proposed program and the existing program in Medicinal Chemistry. Efforts have been made to demonstrate the differences, but the results seem to be students who graduate with similar expertise. This is wasteful of University resources, particularly at this time when all of our activities are being carefully scrutinized. We cannot afford to have even the appearance of duplication of effort. Although it would be valuable to students to be able to take courses in Drug Design and Drug Discovery, and for a synergism to exist between the efforts in Medicinal Chemistry and the Center for Drug Discovery in providing educational opportunities for graduate students, in reality this clearly does not, and will not, happen.

Despite assurances to the contrary, the Council was of the opinion that the proposed program is grounded too firmly on the talents of a single individual (Dr. Bodor). There is no backup support as would be the case in a departmental setting. It appears unlikely that other affiliated faculty would actually chair a supervisory committee within the Center and it is even more unlikely that a student would be allowed to have experts in Drug Design from the Medicinal Chemistry Department on their supervisory committees. This, also, is not in the best interest of students.

In the opinion of the Council, the specific designation on a student's transcript or diploma is not necessarily important in locating postdoctoral positions or other employment. Any student working with Dr. Bodor will enjoy the benefit of that association when seeking a position and presumably will have a publication record that demonstrates his/her expertise. As such, there appears to be no strong benefit to the student of listing this as a specific program.

Based on the various points raised in the discussion, Council voted 4 in favor and 6 opposed; thus, the program was not approved.

3. The proposed policy regarding a "research full-time equivalent" registration was discussed at length and modified to some extent. The intent of the policy is to permit students to register for the minimum number of credits feasible to be considered a full-time student and thus not be required to begin paying off outstanding student loans. This policy will have the effect of reducing the number of graduate student credit hours each term, but the petition process should prevent abuse. Extending the policy to all students who have been advanced

to candidacy is infeasible in terms of the potential loss of GSCHs. The final, renamed policy is as follows:

FIELDWORK/INTERNSHIP FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT

A student may complete thesis or dissertation fieldwork research or an internship away from the University campus as part of his or her academic program. Such student may petition to be considered full-time only when the student is conducting such research or internship, provided he or she is registered for the Full-Time Equivalent. The petition must be endorsed by the student's supervisory committee chair and by the department chair and/or college dean. The Full-Time Equivalent is three credits for a Fall or Spring semester and two credits for a Summer C semester.

It was approved unanimously.

4. A petition on behalf of Ms. Teresa Ooley-Young was approved unanimously. The petition sought the transfer of several credits in order for her to qualify for a nonthesis master's degree.

DISCUSSION ITEM

1. Concerns were raised about the clarity of the information sheet designed to assist students in gaining Florida Residency status. Some of the information is difficult to interpret, and the consequences to the student of applying for, but failing to achieve, residency are vague. There is a serious need for better and more timely residency information. The Graduate School is attempting to work with the Registrar's Office to produce a more useful document.

The Graduate Council meeting was adjourned at 3:23 p.m.