

MINUTES  
GRADUATE COUNCIL  
MAY 23, 1995

- MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard Lutz, Patricia Craddock, Susan Frost, David Jones, Mary Grace Kantowski, Scotty Powers, Rachel Shireman, Karen Bjorndal, Joan Herrera
- MEMBERS ABSENT: Karen Holbrook, Bill Chamberlin, Nicolae Cristescu, Philip Posner, Anita Spring, Richard Yost
- OTHERS PRESENT: Arnold Penland, Barry Currier, Mark Hoit, Pat Miller, Robert Sorkin, Jack Fry, Ruth Troccoli
- STAFF PRESENT: Michael Phillip, Bernice Thornton, Helen Martin, Julie Shih, Phyl Schmidt, Coralu Roessner
- STAFF ABSENT: Dorothy Long

The Graduate Council meeting was called to order by Dr. Richard Lutz at 1:05 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

1. There were three corrections to the minutes of the April meeting. They are 1) Ms. Joan Herrera was not present at the meeting, 2) election of Graduate Council representative to the DSR Board of Directors was also tabled to determine options such as if the representative could be elected for a one-year term, and 3) the quotation in the first paragraph needed closing quotation marks.

The minutes of April 18, 1995, were then approved as corrected.

2. Prof. Barry Currier, College of Law, Dr. Robert Sorkin and Dr. Pat Miller, Department of Psychology, were present for discussion of a request for approval of a J.D./Ph.D. in psychology joint degree program. They pointed out that a student may drop out of the joint degree program should it prove too strenuous and continue in either the J.D. or the Ph.D. In such a case, 6 credits of psychology could be counted toward the J.D., while 12 credits of law could be counted under the Psychology distribution requirement. The Graduate Council unanimously approved the program.
3. Dr. Arnold Penland, College of Fine Arts, presented a request to adjust graduate admission requirements for students in studio, production, and performance areas. He clarified that UF is often competing for top students with universities, both in and outside Florida, that do not require the GRE. Many students do not apply to UF because they do not wish to take the GRE to apply to just one school. He further noted that many low-GRE students with excellent portfolios, who have been admitted conditionally to UF,

thrive in the program. The College also denies admission to high-GRE students with weak portfolios or auditions. Julie Shih noted that the Board of Regents permits 10% of admitted students to be exceptions to the requirement that both an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 and a GRE score of 1000 be submitted. A portfolio or audition will be used by the College of Fine Arts in lieu of the GRE, only for those students entering studio, production, or performance programs. Should a student wish to switch to another program that is not in those areas, she/he will be required to take the GRE. The Council unanimously approved this request. This will be effective in Fall 1995. The College of Fine Arts will attach a form to the referral clearly indicating when a student is in this category.

4. Dr. Mark Hoit, Engineering, was present for discussion of a request to omit the grade point requirement of 3.0 for undergraduate students to enroll in 5000-level courses. He pointed out that many good students in 3-2 programs have GPA's of less than 3.0, but that 5000-level courses are necessary "bridge" courses in such programs. He also noted that the courses will be counted toward the student's undergraduate degree, which requires only a 2.0 GPA to graduate. Thus, under the present restrictions a student may be unable to take a 5000-level course even though she/he is on track to graduate. Phyl Schmidt had determined through prior research that 5000-level courses had never been considered explicitly by the Council; rather, the existing rule seemed to have piggybacked onto the policy governing 6000-level courses. Eventually, it was moved and seconded that: **Upper division undergraduate students may enroll in 5000-level courses with the permission of the instructor. Normally, a student will have a GPA of 3.0 in order to receive permission to enroll.** (The word "normally" allows for exceptions when warranted.) The motion passed unanimously.
5. A motion was made to amend the Graduate School section of the UF Constitution, paragraph E, the last sentence to read as follows: **New faculty may be appointed to the Graduate Faculty as a condition of their appointment to a tenure-track position in a graduate degree granting department upon approval of the appropriate departmental faculty and chair, dean of the college, and the graduate dean.** The motion was passed unanimously.
6. An election was held to select a representative from the Graduate Council to the DSR Board of Directors. Dr. William Chamberlin and Dr. Karen Bjorndal were nominated; Dr. Bjorndal was elected to a 2-year term. A suggestion was made to present two proposals to the DSR Board: (1) an optional one year term and (2) a 2-year staggered term, with the representative holding voting privileges during the second year only. Dr. Bjorndal will work with Dr. Lutz on this proposal over the summer. The rationale for these modifications is that the current 2-year term, with its concurrency requirement, essentially limits the consideration set to only those Council members completing their first year of service. Council members elected on an off-year could never be considered for the DSR representative position. Either option noted above would correct that situation, and the Council will bring one or both to the DSR Board for its consideration.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. A discussion was held with regard to determining the contribution of an individual student in the case of multiple authorship and team research efforts. Is the student's work a product of his/her own initiative and creativity (in consultation with his/her advisor) or simply a slot in an ongoing research program? This is a difficult problem. It is clearly undesirable for a student to be confined to a faculty member's research program rather than having the freedom to explore his/her own ideas. But the fiscal reality is that students are hired to staff already-approved projects. Perhaps what is needed is a statement of the student's contribution to his/her dissertation research. The current policy is clear, so it is not an issue of policy but rather one of implementation and enforcement. As part of the dissertation process, students should write a proposal that is judged for its independent thought.

It was recommended that the Graduate Council prepare a statement to units to carefully consider this issue with respect to dissertations in their units.

It was also suggested that we solicit responses via a special issue of the Exchange that will be sent to all graduate faculty. Also, the Council would like to solicit input from students. It was felt that the process has been abused for so long that we need to educate both faculty and students about the nature of Ph.D. education.

2. A proposal to consider reducing or eliminating the 30-credit and 90-credit requirements for master's and doctoral degrees, respectively, was discussed at length. Some preliminary research had revealed that there are no Board of Regents requirements, so it is under local campus control. If any change is to be made, it is of sufficient importance that it should be approved by the entire graduate faculty. The Council felt there was a need to accumulate information from other institutions over the summer and revisit the issue in the Fall. The opinion was expressed that in the future there may be an even greater need for more remedial/background work as students may be less prepared when entering graduate studies (due to the trend toward streamlining undergraduate degrees).

## INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Dr. Lutz announced the results of the Graduate Council election. The new members are Richard Yost, Bill Chamberlin, Pat Ashton, and Pauline Lawrence. The Graduate Student Council has not yet elected their representative.
2. There are two new graduate concentrations in dental sciences: prosthodontics and endodontics.
3. The revision to the women's/gender studies doctoral concentration recommended at the last Council meeting was received and distributed.

4. UF has hired a consultant to develop a plan for an HMO for all UF students. Jerry Modell in the Health Science Center is heading up this effort. If we can pull together undergraduates, graduates, and post docs, we can have a strong HMO. The question was raised as to whether the HMO can also include adjunct faculty.

Dr. Lutz thanked the Council for a productive year and expressed appreciation to departing Council members Mary Grace Kantowski and Philip Posner for their contributions over the past three years. He also presented a certificate of recognition to Joan Herrera, who is completing her two-year term as the graduate student member of the Council.

The Graduate Council adjourned at 3:21 p.m.