

MINUTES  
GRADUATE COUNCIL  
MAY 9, 1996

- MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Patricia Ashton, Dr. Karen Bjorndal, Dr. Allan Burns, Dr. Bill Chamberlin, Dr. Patricia Craddock, Dr. Nicolae Cristescu, Dr. Dr. Karen Holbrook, Dr. David Jones, Dr. Pauline Lawrence, Dr. Scotty Powers, Dr. Rachel Shireman, Ms. Laura Sullivan, Ms. Ruth Troccoli
- MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Susan Frost, Dr. Richard Yost
- GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. Selcuk Erenguc, Dr. Richard Segal, Dr. Carole Kimberlin, Dr. Chris Batich, Dr. Warren Viessman, Dr. Jack Ohanian, Dr. Mohan Raizada, Dr. Robert Watson, Mr. Barry Currier, Dr. Jack Fry
- STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Richard Lutz, Ms. Helen Martin, Ms. Phyl Schmidt, Ms. Bernice Thornton, Mr. Bob Woods
- STAFF ABSENT: Ms. Dorothy Long, Ms. Julie Shih, Ms. Coralu Clements

The Graduate Council meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Dr. Karen Holbrook.

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. The minutes of the Graduate Council meeting of April 11, 1996, were approved as read.
2. The request for a 3/2 Program in Decision and Information Sciences for BSBA/MA in the College of Business will be revisited in Fall 1996. The Council stated this was not a "3/2" Program but rather just a summer plus one semester accelerated M.A. The Council also questioned the 3.0 minimum GPA admission requirement and the 18 credit hours to be double-counted. The Council asked for a revised proposal that addresses number of double-counted credit hours (12 or less), the minimum GPA for admission, and the time of admission. Alternatively, stronger justification for 18 hours should be presented, e.g., the nature of the competitive environment. Finally, a more complete rationale for the accelerated program was requested.
3. The proposal to offer a PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences with a concentration in Pharmacy Health Care Administration (PHCA) was approved unanimously by the Council. This is a rapidly growing field with great demand for its graduates. PHCA has been active without having its own designated specialization. Pharmacy will remain as a "catch-all"

specialization. The possibility of a specialization in Pharmaceuticals is being reviewed in the College and may be requested in the future.

4. The proposal to offer a graduate degree program in Biomedical Engineering (BME) was approved unanimously by the Council. This program is among the first in the U.S. and is one of only a few in the Southeast. Florida has the largest startup firm in medical devices, which provides a natural market for graduates of this program. The discussion clarified several issues:
  1. College of Medicine faculty will not be BME faculty; they will be external committee members.
  2. Courses below the 5000 level in the major field cannot count for graduate credit; these changes will be worked out after the meeting.
  3. A thesis option (at MS level) will be available.
  4. Regarding minority recruiting, UF has a relationship with FAMU. The Florida-Georgia alliance (now in its third year) generates a pool of minority students in engineering. Also, an NSF grant provides Graduate Engineering Fellowships to minority/women Ph.D. students.

There was a general discussion of the idea of having new program proposals address minority recruiting. UF needs to think beyond FAMU. Departments need to do more proactive recruiting at scientific meetings, etc., and to coordinate efforts with OGMP. Quotas are not appropriate, but targets are valuable in order to measure performance. There is a need to provide more resources for minority recruiting, not just centrally but also at the department level.

5. The proposal to change the MS and Ph.D. programs in Medical Sciences and Biochemistry and Molecular Biology to an “Interdisciplinary Degree Program in Medical Sciences” was approved unanimously. Radical changes were necessary to keep the program modern and vital. A more interdisciplinary posture was needed. The new program was designed from the student’s perspective, breaking down traditional departmental barriers.

The point was offered that the first year curriculum is excellent, but after the first year, there may not be enough courses available to build competitive concentrations. In reply, Dr. Raizada argued that the focus should be on teaching students how to think. The quality of instruction, not the number of courses, is what is important.

The question was raised as to how this would impact students in other parts of the university? Will graduate-level biomedical science courses be available to them? The reply was that the College of Medicine would continue to welcome students from outside

the college. Biochemistry will continue to be offered. Discussions are underway with other parts of the campus for consolidating resources.

A question was raised regarding the impact on the M.D./Ph.D. program. It was never funded by NIH and it may disappear because only two are students enrolled in it.

The director of each concentration will serve as the Graduate Coordinator. External members of supervisory committees should be from outside the College of Medicine and not across specializations within the College of Medicine.

6. A request from the College of Law for waiver of the rule requiring a graduate student to register for a minimum of three semester hours during his/her final term at UF was denied unanimously.

Associate Dean Currier argued that very few university resources were used by these students in their last term. They have paid for the 30 required credits; but it takes longer than a one-year span for some students to complete a quality project. The expectation is that all students will finish; it is not clear until near the end that a student will need more time. Furthermore, UF is competing against programs requiring only 24 credits (UF requires 30) with considerable scholarships and fellowships.

The Council opined that it was inappropriate to exempt one group of students. Many graduate students have “open-ended” programs with respect to completing a thesis or dissertation. The coordinator of the program needs to make adjustments for this rule.

7. The proposed policy regarding the submission of “General Audience Abstract” with thesis and dissertations was approved unanimously.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. Ideas were sought for a proposal relating to the National Science Foundation Awards for the Integration of Research and Education. The Interdisciplinary Studies model in College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is the best angle to date. Also, honor theses are required for high and highest honors. Independent research by undergraduates occurs throughout university under the 4905 rubric. Research should be included in teacher education programs as well. Even if the NSF award is not received, it will be a good mechanism for the shaping of information campus-wide. Summer research programs exist in several areas, including the McNair program.
2. Ruth Troccoli, Laura Sullivan, Pat Ashton and Allan Burns will give input by Tuesday on the Graduate Student Handbook, which is being revised.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Beginning in the Fall 1996, German and Austrian bachelor degree equivalency will be determined in a less stringent manner than before in order to compete with other institutions in the recruitment of top students.
2. The Department of Communication Processes and Disorders intends to discontinue the Communication Studies concentration within the department.
3. The proposal to remove the restriction that only Graduate Faculty may teach graduate courses was approved by the Graduate Faculty.

Dr. Holbrook recognized and thanked retiring Council members Pat Craddock, Susan Frost, Scott Powers, and Rachel Shireman for their dedicated service over the past three years.

The meeting of the Graduate Council adjourned at 3:32 p.m.