

MINUTES
GRADUATE COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 19, 1996

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Karen Holbrook (Chair), Dr. Patricia Ashton, Dr. Barbara Barletta, Dr. Karen Bjorndal, Dr. Bill Chamberlin, Dr. Christine Chase, Dr. Nicolae Cristescu, Dr. Joe Delfino, Dr. David Jones, Dr. Pauline Lawrence, Dr. Ann Progulske-Fox, Ms. Laura Sullivan, Dr. Richard Yost

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Allan Burns

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. Marie Nelson, Dr. Bill Sullivan, Dr. James Deyrup, Dr. Jack Fry, Mr. Clay Scherer, Mr. Larry Fitzmorris

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Richard Lutz, Ms. Helen Martin, Ms. Julie Shih, Ms. Phyl Schmidt, Ms. Dorothy Long, Ms. Bernice Thornton, Ms. Coralu Clements

STAFF ABSENT: Mr. Bob Woods

The Graduate Council meeting was called to order at 1:36 p.m. by Dr. Karen Holbrook.

Dr. Holbrook welcomed the new members to the Graduate Council.

Dr. Holbrook announced Dr. Richard Lutz's promotion from Associate Dean to Senior Associate Dean.

Graduate Student Handbooks were given to each member of the Graduate Council.

I. ACTION ITEMS

1. The minutes of the Graduate Council meeting of May 9, 1996, were approved as read.
2. A proposal to offer a nonthesis option for the M.A. degree in linguistics was passed unanimously. Dr. Marie Nelson and Dr. Bill Sullivan presented the proposal and answered questions from the Council.
3. Ms. Julie Shih presented a proposal regarding the Employment Profile Survey. There was a discussion of the different models used by other universities and responses from UF

departments to the proposed requirements. Henceforth, nonthesis master's students should submit their completed Employment Profile Survey forms to the Graduate School with their Final Examination forms. Doctoral and thesis master's students will continue to submit their forms at the time of first submission of the thesis or dissertation. The Council recommended that the form be revised to capture more specific information (e.g., the name of the employer or the school at which further graduate or postgraduate study is to be undertaken). The proposal was approved unanimously. The Council further recommended that the Graduate School begin developing a mechanism for tracking students' employment after graduation.

4. Ms. Helen Martin of the Editorial Office presented a proposal for clarification of the 7-year limit for counting a master's degree toward the Ph.D. The Graduate Catalog is vague with respect to whether the seven years refers to the date the student begins Ph.D. study or the date s/he requests credit for the degree. The Graduate Records Office has been interpreting it as the former, which the Council found acceptable. It was felt that most peer institutions have similar or more stringent policies. Also, the fact that students must pass a qualifying examination in their fields may automatically correct the problem, since students presumably take coursework to update their knowledge in preparation for their exam.

The Council questioned the rationale for eliminating the requirement. In particular, there was concern about the potential impact on other A seven-year@rules. The Council encouraged further information gathering, including an informal survey of peer schools' practices and consultation with the Graduate Coordinators' Advisory Council regarding possible implications of dropping the requirement.

A straw vote showed no support for eliminating the requirement without more information having been collected.

II. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. There was a discussion of the draft of the Strategic Plan. The Council expressed its support for the recommendations contained in the document.

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. A suggestion was made to add a representative from the Graduate Coordinators' Advisory Council to the Graduate Council. The Council expressed enthusiasm for this idea. A formal proposal will be made at a future meeting to begin the constitutional change process. Dr. Nita Davidson will be representing the GCAC on an informal basis during 1996-1997.

2. Dr. Richard Lutz announced the members of the task forces on Fellowships, Recruitment, Enrollment, and Program Assessment and Evaluation.
3. Larry Fitzmorris was present for a discussion of using the self-reported GPA for graduate admissions decisions. This will allow the departments to make faster decisions. This information, including a report summarizing the University of Wisconsin's experience with self-reported GPAs, will be sent to the Graduate Coordinators. The Graduate Council expressed appreciation to Mr. Fitzmorris for taking steps to help speed up the admissions process.
4. Name change from Master of Laws degree in Comparative Law concentration(L.L.M.), to Master of Laws in Comparative Law (MLCL).
5. Dr. Richard Lutz explained the \$2.5 million allocated by UF for graduate fellowships from the 7% tuition increase. The breakdown follows:

\$300,000 = Health Science Center
\$200,000 = IFAS
\$200,000 = MBA & Law

Thus, there is approximately \$1.8 million available for fellowships campuswide including tuition payments. The Council urged that the Fellowship Task Force go beyond simply allocating the funds to consider broader issues regarding the funding of graduate education at UF. It is unclear at this juncture that the tuition increase will continue to be devoted to graduate fellowships in the future. The Graduate School should be included in the deliberations in that regard.

Dr. Holbrook announced that she plans to invite Ms. Jayne Irvin, Associate Vice President of Development, to attend the next Council meeting to discuss fund-raising for graduate education. The long-awaited graduate education brochure, which is being produced in conjunction with the Florida Council for Graduate Studies, will be available very soon and should be useful in the Capital Campaign.

Ms. Helen Martin received kudos for the revised Graduate Student Handbooks.

Dr. Lutz reported on the joint effort by several groups -- the Graduate School, the Affirmative Action office, the Office of Instructional Resources, Graduate Assistants United, University Center for Excellence in Teaching, and the Graduate Student Council -- on the Sexual Harassment workshop for new TAs. The feedback from the participants was favorable, and the workshop will be refined for Fall 1997.

The meeting of the Graduate Council adjourned at 3:18 p.m.