

MINUTES  
GRADUATE COUNCIL  
OCTOBER 17, 1996

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Nicolae Cristescu

GCAC REP PRESENT: Dr. Nita Davidson

GUESTS PRESENT: Dean John Kraft, Dr. Selcuk Erenguc, Ms. Jayne Irvin, Dr. Jack Fry, Mr. Clay Scherer

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

The Graduate Council meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by Dr. Karen Holbrook.

Copies of "Graduate Education: Doing the Right Thing for Florida" were distributed to all in attendance.

**I. ACTION ITEMS**

1. The minutes of the Graduate Council meeting of September 19, 1996, were approved as read.
2. Dean John Kraft and Dr. Selcuk Erenguc presented the rationale for the proposed accelerated master's program in Decision and Information Sciences. The question arose as to why a student would pursue a "regular" master's rather than the accelerated program, since the normal master's program requires 155 hours (120 undergraduate and 35 MA), in comparison to 139 -144 hours for the accelerated program. In response, it was noted that the accelerated program would be available only to University of Florida undergraduate business majors who plan far enough ahead to take advantage of the program. It would not be available to students from other colleges or universities. The

accelerated program is intended for students who have no work experience but want to continue on to Graduate School. In response to comments at an earlier Council meeting, the minimum GPA requirement was increased from 3.0 to 3.25. It was also noted that the graduate degree would not be compromised, since all double-counted courses are graduate courses. Most students will end up taking 5 years to complete the program, so it really is functionally equivalent to a 3-2 program. A similar program has been very successful in the Fisher School of Accounting.

The proposal passed with 10 in favor and two abstentions.

3. There was a discussion of the current policy on Multi-Departmental Graduate Faculty Appointments. The issue of concern was whether a graduate faculty member from outside the department can serve as a supervisory committee chair, without a formal vote by the department faculty to confer graduate faculty status. This is a common occurrence in interdisciplinary degree programs, as well as in other instances where a student's research interests cut across disciplines.

The question arose as to whether graduate faculty status is held at university or department/college level.

After further discussion, consensus was reached that the policy should be clarified in two ways:

1. The title should be changed from "Multi-Departmental Graduate Faculty Appointment Policy" to "Chairing Supervisory Committees in Multiple Departments," since chairing committees is the real issue.
2. It should be made more explicit that the graduate faculty appointment can be accomplished via a vote and a letter rather than an entire new graduate faculty application.

The Graduate Council voted in principle and it was passed unanimously. A formal revision of the policy will be presented as an action item at the next Council meeting.

4. A proposal was discussed that would permit medical students to spend a year as nondegree-seeking graduate students and to substitute the MCAT for the GRE. The Council decided that a letter should be sent to Dr. Ian Phillips denying the request. It was felt that the students would be better served by remaining enrolled as professional students since they were not seeking graduate degrees. It was suggested that the MCAT and GRE evaluate different proficiencies. The request could be reconsidered if new information became available.

## **II. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. Ms. Jayne Irvin, Associate V.P. for Development, University of Florida Foundation, discussed fundraising for graduate education by the Graduate School with respect to the Capital Campaign. It is particularly challenging due to the alumni's tendency to identify with the specific college/program from which they graduated. However, Dr. Karen Bjorndal (a UF graduate) noted that she has strong feelings for the UF Graduate School and that the departments seem more undergraduate oriented.

Although support from the State is declining, private funds can never offset the decrease. However, willingness of the private sector to invest in graduate education may spark the interest of legislators. Legislators like to support strong programs, and private funding serves as a "signal" to the Legislature.

Other major public universities' graduate schools have not engaged in fundraising, with a few exceptions like Michigan and Ohio State, so there is not an abundance of "models" on which to pattern our own effort.

It is clear that the Graduate School should be on a list of naming opportunities in the Capital Campaign.

Dr. Bill Chamberlin reported that he is on the Board of Directors of the UF Foundation and is very impressed with it. The Graduate Council has a conduit to the Board through him. He also offered the suggestion of using the Graduate School as a "partner" in college-level fundraising.

Other ideas included targeting more programs at master's graduates, since there are so many more of them than there are Ph.D.s; targeting former fellowship recipients; contacting former Graduate School administrators and Graduate Research Professors for "historical" contacts supportive of graduate education; asking current graduate students for small donations; creating a sense of obligation among current multiple-year fellowship holders to pay back the University after graduation; and creating a pool of matching funds for smaller gifts (i.e., challenge grants) at the Graduate School.

Ms. Irvin noted that faculty are large contributors, due to their commitment to higher education. Several former faculty are among the top 25 contributors to UF.

Next year will be the 50th year of women at UF. The University will be honoring 47 outstanding women alumnae. Several hold UF graduate degrees and may be good targets for, say, Women in Science fellowships.

Karen Holbrook announced that Mr. Allen Lastinger, CEO, Barnett Banks, has donated \$1 million (after matching by the state) for graduate fellowships. In line with this point, it

was mentioned that much of the Graduate School funding is filtered through the departments and is not identified with the Graduate School. The Graduate School needs to be marketed better on campus. Students often don't know what the Graduate School does for them in general. There needs to be more visibility and recognition of graduate education and the Graduate School (e.g., at football games). In general, the need for better public relations was indicated and the suggestion was made that a public relations task force be formed.

For example, the Graduate School Annual report should contain more information about what the Graduate School does for the campus, programs, and students (in addition to the statistics, etc.). Also, National Graduate Student Week (next March) may be an opportunity to collaborate with Graduate Student Council on some events that can heighten the visibility of the Graduate School.

### **III. INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Dr. Ann Progulsk-Fox is involved with the IDP program in the College of Medicine. There are approximately 400 applicants, 300 from China alone. She inquired about the policy of the University regarding how many international students are permitted in the Graduate School. No such policy exists.
2. Dr. Lutz mentioned that the Board of Regents is considering eliminating tuition waivers for graduate assistants appointed on contracts and grants. The Graduate School is involved in lobbying against this possibility.

Adjournment at 3:29 p.m.