

MINUTES
GRADUATE COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 21, 1996

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Patricia Ashton, Dr. Barbara Barletta, Dr. Karen Bjorndal, Dr. Allan Burns, Dr. William Chamberlin, Dr. Christine Chase, Dr. Nicolae Cristescu, Dr. Joe Delfino, Dr. David Jones, Dr. Pauline Lawrence, Dr. Ann Progulske-Fox, Dr. Richard Yost

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Karen Holbrook (Chair), Ms. Laura Sullivan

GCAC REP ABSENT: Dr. Nita Davidson

GUESTS PRESENT: 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

The Graduate Council meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m. by Dr. Richard Lutz, presiding in Dr. Karen Holbrook's absence. She is at a meeting in Washington, D.C.

The College of Nursing requested that its proposal, Information Item #1, enclosure 5, be tabled until the next meeting.

I. ACTION ITEMS

1. There was one correction to the minutes of the Graduate Council meeting of October 17, 1996. Dr. Nita Davidson's name was misspelled.
2. A motion was made to recommend a change to the Constitution of the University of Florida to include a member of the Graduate Coordinators' Advisory Council as a member of the Graduate Council. The change shall read:

“The Graduate Council shall be composed of twelve members of the Graduate Faculty, a graduate student elected by the Graduate Student Council, a representative from the Graduate Coordinators' Advisory Council, and the Dean of the Graduate School who shall serve as Chairperson.

The Graduate Coordinator's Advisory Council representative shall be a current member of that body, elected by its membership to a one-year term on the Graduate Council and

eligible for re-election for a second term. The motion was passed unanimously. It will be sent to the Constitution Committee of the University Senate.

3. Ms. Phyl Schmidt presented a request to alter the policy requiring simultaneous admission to joint degree programs. The College of Law offers eight joint programs with the simultaneous admissions policy. However, with the new tracking system, simultaneous admission is no longer necessary. As long as the student is admitted to the second program two semesters prior to graduation from the first program, tracking is not problematic. This would permit students more flexibility in their studies. A motion to modify the policy passed unanimously.

II. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. A request from the College of Engineering for the use of alternative formats in theses and dissertations was presented. It is important that consistency of format be maintained throughout the document, but the Council agreed that more formats and more flexibility should be permitted, but not complete flexibility. It was noted that considerable flexibility is already permitted within the guidelines that are available on the Web and in the guideline booklet. However, changes need to be made to the guideline booklet so it is consistent with the information on the Web. Helen Martin and her staff will create examples of some additional acceptable format styles to be added to the Web and the Guide. The discussion of thesis and dissertation format led to a discussion of co-authorship issues. Students may use any part of jointly-authored work that is their own intellectual property, as reflected in the Graduate Council minutes of December 15, 1994:

“A student may include material from previously published co-authored work to the extent that the student originally produced that material. Material produced by co-authors should be so noted and cited appropriately. Ultimately, it is the supervisory committee’s responsibility to ensure that the dissertation reflects a sufficient level of original scholarly work by the student.”

This statement was promulgated in the Exchange, but also needs to be included in the Guide.

Adjournment at 2:35 p.m.