

MINUTES
GRADUATE COUNCIL
JANUARY 16, 1997

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Karen Holbrook, chair; Dr. Patricia Ashton; Dr. Barbara Barletta; Dr. Karen Bjorndal; Dr. Allan Burns; Dr. William Chamberlin; Dr. Joseph Delfino; Dr. David Jones; Dr. Pauline Lawrence; Dr. Ann Progulske-Fox; Dr. Richard Yost; Ms. Laura Sullivan

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Nicolae Cristescu and Dr. Christine Chase

GCAC REP PRESENT: Dr. Nita Davidson

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. Jack Fry and Mr. Clay Scherer

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Richard Lutz; Ms. Lisa Hogan; Ms. Dorothy Long; Ms. Julie Shih and Mr. Robert Woods

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

I. ACTION ITEMS

1. There were two corrections to the minutes of the Graduate Council meeting of November 21, 1996: Item I. #3 next to last line, flexibility was misspelled and on the last page last line, exchange was misspelled.
2. The requests for adding the nonthesis option for the Master of Science in Nursing degree and elimination of the Master of Nursing degree in the College of Nursing were approved after some questions and discussion on the research requirements of MS degrees. It was noted that under the nonthesis option the comprehensive examination must be written rather than oral.
3. The modification of the minimum registration requirement for fellowship recipients was approved by the Council. The minimum registration requirement for students holding fellowships paying less than \$3,150 per semester is three credits. This, however, does not constitute full-time status.
4. At the request of Dr. Barletta, who has a conflict with her teaching schedule, it was agreed that the remaining Graduate Council meetings during Spring 1997 will begin at 1:00 p.m. rather than 1:30 p.m.

II. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. The University's new tuition policy was discussed. The Council expressed concern that in some colleges there is not enough waiver money to cover all state-funded graduate assistants' tuition or the tuition associated with fellowships in Spring 1997. The Council predicted that departments will begin to recruit fewer out-of-state and international students and will consider hiring postdocs to replace graduate assistants. The Council expressed the opinion that to request tuition support in research proposals will make UF less competitive. The fact that other universities do not waive grant-funded students' tuition should not necessarily govern our decision making. Instead, we should make an institutional commitment to supporting graduate students. A question was raised about how the University plans to support doctoral students if UF increases doctoral enrollment. One idea is to consider granting Florida residency status automatically to all graduate assistants. The concern is that with the present level of tuition funding and projected tuition increases, within 3 to 4 years even state-funded TAs tuition will not be covered. The Council asked that President Lombardi and/or Provost Capaldi attend the next meeting to discuss the tuition waiver issue and to answer questions about the central administration's stance on graduate education. The Council also asked to have a clearer policy (or statement) from the Graduate School on tuition waiver funding for endowed fellowships.
2. The new Named Presidential Fellowship program is funded by money provided by the 7% tuition increase and is to be used to recruit new graduate students. It was suggested that this information be put on the World Wide Web and also in the Exchange.
3. Dr. Lutz presented progress reports on the Graduate School Task Forces. The Fellowship Task Force will be making its decisions next month regarding the Named Presidential Fellowships. The Evaluation Task Force has broken into three subcommittees and will be meeting again as a full group at the end of January or beginning of February. The Enrollment Task Force has produced a preliminary draft. The Recruitment Task Force also has broken up into subcommittees and the chair of the group will be attending a seminar on recruitment later this month. Julie Shih added that the Graduate Admissions area in the Registrar's Office is working on an electronic application and expects to have the international application on-line by the end of May. The application will be linked to department Web sites. Voice response on the status of applications is also expected to be completed by the end of May.

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. The Master of Engineering degree was added to hydrologic sciences.
2. New concentrations were added to the Ph.D. program in Health and Human Performance.
3. Dr. Holbrook announced that at the Board of Regents meeting to be held next week the Ph.D. programs in Biomedical Engineering and in Radiology would be considered. She also announced that the research magazine Explore won the Grand Award in the CASE District III Awards Competition, reflecting the quality of all our efforts at the University

of Florida and recognizing a high level of distinction among the many outstanding entries in this year's competition.

Adjournment at 3:07 p.m.