

MINUTES  
GRADUATE COUNCIL  
APRIL 17, 1997

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Karen Holbrook, chair; Dr. Patricia Ashton; Dr. Barbara Barletta; Dr. Karen Bjorndal; Dr. Allan Burns; Dr. William Chamberlin; Dr. Nicolea Cristescu; Dr. Christine Chase; Dr. Pauline Lawrence; Dr. Ann Progulsk-Fox; Dr. Richard Yost

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Joseph Delfino, Dr. David A. Jones, Ms. Laura Sullivan

GCAC REP ABSENT: Dr. Jerry Sartain

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. Jack Fry; Dr. Craig Tapley; Dean John Kraft; Dr. Jim Ellis; Ms. Gail Sasnett; Dr. Carl Kukulka; Mr. Clay Scherer

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Richard Lutz; Ms. Dorothy Long; Ms. Bernice Thornton; Ms. Julie Shih; Ms. Helen Martin; Ms. Mary Tomlinson; Ms. Phyl Schmidt; and Mr. Robert Woods

The Graduate Council meeting was called to order at 1:05 P.M. by Dr. Richard Lutz.

Copies of the new Graduate Catalog were distributed to all the Graduate Council members.

**I. ACTION ITEMS**

1. The minutes of the Graduate Council meeting of February 20, 1997, were approved with three corrections. On page 2, in paragraph 3, the word “than” should be inserted between “rather” and “separate”; on page 3, paragraph 1, a comma should appear after Dr. Allan Burns' name; and on page 4, item 3, a comma should appear after task forces.
2. The administrative proposal for the Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in Rehabilitation Science in the College of Health Professions was brought to the Graduate Council for consideration. After a brief discussion the proposal was approved unanimously by the Graduate Council.
3. Dr. Lutz introduced Dean John Kraft who explained to the Council the proposed flexible (electronic) MBA program. Dean Kraft explained that it is the same as the regular MBA program that is currently taught on campus. This program is an expansion of that program to reach out to a wider area beyond Gainesville. The flexible MBA program is designed for the Internet, with students coming to campus only once each term for examinations and case presentations. After two years, the College of Business Administration will

review the program and decide whether or not to continue it. The flexible MBA program is designed primarily for three types of professionals: doctors, engineers, and lawyers who are living in areas not accessible to the on-campus MBA program. Only 35 to 40 students will be admitted each year during the two-year trial. The in-state tuition is \$35,000; out-of-state tuition is \$45,000. To mount the program, the College of Business Administration needs extra support staff (e.g., people experienced in Internet software) which will greatly increase staff costs, which is why the tuition is so high. The tuition will be charged through Continuing Education.

Recruitment will be done through brochures, twelve information sessions held around the state; mailings to anyone who scores well on the GMAT; and contact with large companies both in Florida and out of state. The proposed flexible (electronic) MBA program was approved unanimously with the condition that in two years the Council will review the program.

4. The next item was approval of concentrations and assignment of major concentration codes in the MBA program. Dr. Tapley explained that they were not asking for Board of Regents approval of new majors. His main concern is that there be a separate Registrar's code for each concentration so that they can track their students, and the students' transcripts will properly reflect the concentrations earned. His request was approved unanimously.
5. Ms. Gail Sasnett from the College of Law presented a template for a joint degree between any academic department and the College of Law. The College of Law has approved this joint degree template, making it easier for students to obtain a joint degree. A benefit to the students is more availability of jobs. Ms. Sasnett also opined that joint degrees are a mark of distinction for the University of Florida. One concern was raised by the Council. This template should be used only as a guide to preparing a joint degree proposal; it does not imply blanket approval. Any joint program will have to be approved by the Graduate Council. The proposed joint degree policy was approved unanimously with the condition that it does not constitute a blanket approval of all joint programs.
6. Dr. Jim Ellis presented a request for approval of an amendment to the Graduate School Traveling Scholar Program operational procedures. Over the years, there has been increasing participation by graduate students in UF OISP Overseas Study. The student studies overseas for one year, but is allowed a maximum of only twelve semester hours of credit toward his or her degree. One of the concerns expressed by the Graduate Council was the interruption of Ph.D. students' period of concentrated study. The Council felt that the credits Ph.D. students earn when studying abroad need to be pre-approved by the Graduate School. Dr. Ellis proposed that anything over 12 hours, up to a maximum of 30 hours, would have to be approved by the Graduate School for a student studying for a year abroad.

The Graduate Council voted unanimously to permit graduate students to earn up to 30 credits in overseas study and that a pre-approved absence will not interfere with the period of concentrated study.

7. Dr. Lutz introduced a proposed rule change to the Florida Administrative Code section on the graduate student grievance process (6C1-4.012). The current code leaves the Vice President for Research absent from 6C1-4.012. Dr. Lutz proposed that the Vice President for Research be added to this section as the point of appeal of college-level decisions regarding graduate student complaints. The proposed rule change was unanimously approved.
8. Julie Shih presented a motion for the approval of the following graduate admissions policy:
  - 1) Graduate School reviews for applicants below Board of Regents minima.
  - 2) College reviews for applicants below UF minima.
  - 3) Graduate School to examine colleges with a high percentage of conditional admissions and low first-year GPAs.

The motion was unanimously approved.

9. Dr. Allan Burns presented to the Graduate Council the slate of candidates for the two Graduate Council vacancies. The following slate will be on the ballot along with a bio-sketch for each candidate.

Gijs Bosman, Engineering, Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering  
 Steve Brandt, CLAS - Associate Professor of Anthropology  
 Frank Nordlie, CLAS - Professor of Zoology  
 Hugh Popenoe - IFAS - Professor of Soil and Water Science  
 Karen Seccombe, CLAS - Associate Professor of Sociology  
 Marilyn Swisher - IFAS, Associate Professor of Home Economics\*  
 \*Graduate faculty appointment is in Geography.

Dr. Lutz thanked Dr. Karen Bjorndal, Dr. David Jones and Dr. Nicolae Cristescu for serving on the Graduate Council for the last three years, and Dr. Allan Burns for his service as a replacement for Dr. Anita Spring for the past year.

10. Dr. Lutz informed the Graduate Council that Dr. Karen Bjorndal, who has served as the Graduate Council representative to the ORTGE Board of Directors, has completed her term. Therefore a new representative must be elected. This is a one-year term and it needs to be a person who will be returning to the Graduate Council next year. Dr. Richard Yost and Dr. Joseph Delfino were nominated. Dr. Yost was elected.

## **II. INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Dr. Lutz commended Dr. Jack Fry for his long-term service to the University and his loyal attendance of the Graduate Council meetings. He will be retiring June 30, 1997, and will be sorely missed.
2. Dr. Lutz mentioned the poor attendance at the Graduate Faculty Meeting and asked the Council for suggestions for achieving better attendance. Some of the suggestions were to

- 1) have the meeting earlier in the semester, but with a longer lead time on the announcement; 2) have the meeting in the Fall; 3) send the Graduate Coordinators personal letters encouraging them to attend and asking them to invite members of departmental graduate committees; make the meeting more interactive and prospective rather than retrospective; promote in such a way as to underscore its importance; send e-mail reminders; hold it earlier in the afternoon; and hold it in a smaller room.
3. Dr. Lutz informed the Council that when the task force reports are completed, they will be distributed to everyone.
  4. Dr. Lutz informed the Council that 17 Named Presidential Fellowships have been accepted.
  5. Mr. Bob Woods informed the Council of the results of Graduate Minority Fellowship offers: 25 were offered; 8 have accepted; 9 have declined; and 8 are undecided. He also updated the Council on the status of McKnight Fellowship offers.
  6. Dr. Pauline Lawrence informed the Council that the National Science Foundation is no longer funding international students. She is greatly concerned about this matter and said the NSF fellowships are being phased out completely. She also said that NSF is going to discourage single researcher grants and instead start offering more training grant funding to research teams. This will not affect existing grants, just new grant proposals.
  7. There will not be a Graduate Council meeting in May.
  8. Dr. Lutz thanked the Council for a year of excellent work and commended Ms. Helen Martin, Ms. Phyl Schmidt, and Ms. Julie Shih for their efforts, particularly in helping prepare program proposals for Graduate Council review.

Adjournment at 3:05 P.M.