

MINUTES
GRADUATE COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 18, 1997

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Karen Holbrook, chair; Dr. Patricia Ashton, Dr. Barbara Barletta, Dr. William Chamberlin, Dr. Christine Chase, Dr. Joseph Delfino, Dr. Frederick Gregory, Dr. Frank Nordlie, Dr. Hugh Popenoe, Dr. Ann Progulsk-Fox, Mr. Clay Scherer, Dr. Richard Yost

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Pauline Lawrence, Dr. Michael Perfit

GCAC REPRESENTATIVE: Dr. Douglas Dankel

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. Ruth Alexander, Dr. David Brown, Dr. John Kraft, Dr. Rachel Shireman, Dr. Robert Singer, Dr. Neil Sullivan, Dr. Craig Tapley, Dr. Sue Whiddon, Ms. Trish Ventura

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

The Graduate Council meeting was called to order at 1:34 by Dr. Karen Holbrook.

Dr. Holbrook introduced three new members of the Council: Dr. Frederick Gregory, Dr. Frank Nordlie, Dr. Hugh Popenoe.

I. ACTION ITEMS

1. The minutes of the Graduate Council meeting of April 17, 1997, were approved unanimously with no corrections.
2. Dr. John Kraft presented the proposal to formally establish the Graduate School of Business. The name has been used for the past 18 years. The Council asked if the designation has structural implications for the College's relationship with the Graduate School (e.g., regarding degree-granting authority). Dean Kraft replied that the only objective is to be able to use the name, which is important to the College in competing for graduate students and faculty. The proposal was approved unanimously.
3. Dr. Craig Tapley presented the proposal for the Graham-Buffett security analysis concentration in the MBA program. The concentration is to be part of the 48-credit program and not an add-on. The Council questioned what the measure of outcome success would be; Dr. Tapley's response was the placement and salary of the students upon graduation. The full name of the concentration is to appear on the student transcript. The proposal was approved unanimously.

4. Dr. Craig Tapley and Dr. Ruth Alexander presented the proposal for the MBA/MESS, a joint degree program between the Department of Exercise and Sport Science in the College of Health and Human Performance and the MBA program in the College of Business Administration. The program will prepare students for the sport management market much better than either the MBA or the MESS alone. The proposal was approved unanimously and will be effective this term (Fall 1997).
5. Dr. David Brown presented the proposal for a JD/MA in business administration with a concentration in real estate and urban analysis joint degree program. Under the joint program agreement, the Department of Finance, Insurance and Real Estate will allow 12 credits of appropriate courses from the law curriculum to be counted toward the Master of Arts degree, and students may receive up to 12 credits toward the JD degree for graduate courses taken in the College of Business Administration. The program will permit real estate students to gain needed expertise in law. The proposal was approved unanimously.
6. Dr. Holbrook presented the Statement of Principles, "Building on Inclusive Graduate Community," which was endorsed by the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) at its annual meeting last December. Since that time many other graduate schools also have adopted the policy statement. The Graduate Council was concerned that endorsing the statement would make UF a target for litigation. However, the statement does not imply changing admissions criteria or other actions that could lead to liability. After a short discussion the Council voted unanimously to adopt the statement.
7. Dr. Lutz presented information about the Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) initiative that is under consideration. The Council raised a number of concerns:
 - a. Publication issues, especially in fields where a book is published based on the thesis or dissertation. (In such instances, access may be restricted to local users.)
 - b. Permanence of storage; future technologies may leave current records inaccessible (e.g., 20-30 years from now a PDF file may not be readable; therefore, there may be a need for a paper archival copy). There is danger in ignoring the very long term (e.g., the potential lack of hardware, software compatibility).
 - c. If access is restricted and a paper copy is archived, what are the advantages of ETDs?
 - d. Accessibility itself is a tremendous advantage and a good reason to move forward quickly (the vast majority [over 90%] of theses are not published)
 - e. Intellectual property rights, while important, are not overriding.
 - f. To be successful, an ETD system must protect individual rights, ensure long term archival storage, and create access.

- g. A lot of material on the World Wide Web has not passed the level of scrutiny that traditional routes to publication ensure. This will force new standards of critical evaluation on the reader, something that will take place gradually.
 - h. Despite the concerns, the future is electronic, so the Graduate School should at least consider ETDs.
 - i. The use of multimedia in ETDs is an exciting opportunity, but paper is proven permanent. There may be a need to have parallel systems for a period of time.
 - j. Might ETDs affect students' choices of thesis versus nonthesis option at the masters level? Would this have implications for the UF Bank? It is not clear whether it would make writing a thesis more or less attractive to students. Students may see it as more economical than paper.
 - k. There could be a lot of technical glitches that might occur in converting word processing files to PDF files.
 - l. There would have to be ready access to a scanner to permit graphics, photos, etc. to be imported.
 - m. There must be a commitment to support facilities and graduate student computer accounts.
 - n. A representative of the University Press of Florida should be added to the task force.
 - o. Delays in paper publishing have reached up to a 2-year backlog in some disciplines. Electronic dissemination, therefore, is very important.
8. Dr. Holbrook presented the new recruiting poster, which resulted from one of the recommendations of the Recruiting Task Force. The poster will help UF to present a consistent identity. It is available for departments and colleges to use or adapt. The Council made some suggestions for improvements in the design and colors and discussed the effectiveness of posters in recruiting graduate students.
9. Dr. Neil Sullivan presented the proposal for an interdisciplinary concentration in imaging science and technology. The Center itself and the interdisciplinary concentration are being proposed simultaneously because the graduate program is part and parcel of the Center. Dr. Sullivan explained that UF is a pioneer in this sort of integrated multidisciplinary approach and that the proposed Center has generated a lot of internal and external academic and corporate interest. The goal is to achieve a high degree of balance in the concentration; they hope to attract students from a variety of disciplines. The Council found the proposal to be very exciting, and the support for it was enthusiastic. A number of suggestions were offered for refinement:

- a. The four exams proposed seem excessive (two qualifiers, two final orals). The recommendation was to blend the supervisory committee's responsibilities to accomplish that aspect of quality control. Thus, one qualifier and one final defense should suffice.
- b. The 3.5 GPA requirement seems too high; 3.2 or 3.25 should be sufficient. Given the interdisciplinary thrust of the concentration, students may range farther afield and therefore risk some lower grades.
- c. Participating departments should develop "tracks" in imaging science.
- d. After some discussion, it was agreed that student financial support is not a concern. Too many faculty are strongly committed to imaging, and NSF funding has been sought that would provide 15 student positions. A training grant proposal is also in the works. The imaging area is hot and will attract funding. Thus, the concentration will not have to rely on department support.
- e. External members of the supervisory committee must be from outside the major department but may be inside the IS&T concentration.
- f. The Florida Engineering Education Delivery System (FEEDS) provides a useful model for developing course tracks involving other universities.

The Council voted unanimously to approve the concentration in principle and authorize promotion of the program. A refined proposal is to be submitted for final approval at a future Council meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.