

MINUTES
GRADUATE COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 20, 1997
1:30 P.M.
264 GRINTER HALL

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. Pauline Lawrence, Dr. Frank Nordlie, Dr. Michael Perfit, Dr. Hugh Popenoe, Dr. Ann Progulsk-Fox, Mr. Clay Scherer, Dr. Richard Yost

GCAC REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT: Dr. Douglas Dankel

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. Ruth Alexander, Dr. Linda Crocker, Mr. Marcus Harvey, Dr. Arnold Penland, Dr. Robin Poynor, Ms. Gail Sasnett, Dr. Rachel Shireman, Dr. Robert Singer, Dr. Grover Smart, Ms. Trish Ventura, Dr. Sue Whiddon

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Richard Lutz, Ms. Lisa Hogan, Ms. Helen Martin, Ms. Phyl Schmidt, Ms. Julie Shih, Mr. Bob Woods

STAFF ABSENT: Ms. Dorothy Long, Ms. Bernice Thornton

The Graduate Council meeting was called to order at 1:33 p.m. by Dr. Karen Holbrook.

I. ACTION ITEMS

1. The minutes of the Graduate Council meeting of October 23, 1997, were approved unanimously with one correction. On page two, in paragraph 3, the fifth sentence should read as follows: "It has been mandated as the profession's entry level degree..."
2. Dr. Linda Crocker and Ms. Gail Sasnett presented the proposal for a JD/PhD program between the College of Education and the College of Law. In response to a question regarding minimum grades, they explained that the minimum passing grade in the Law School is a C rather than a B.

The Council again raised the concern expressed at the last meeting regarding simultaneity of the awarding of the two degrees. While no one wishes to "hold a student hostage" to both programs if s/he decides to drop out of joint degree program and complete just one, the proposal still offers no safeguard against the concern expressed earlier about a student dropping out of the Ph.D. program at the dissertation stage when the JD is complete. The following amendment was offered to correct this potential problem. Under paragraph #8

of the proposal, the first sentence should end with "...requirements for both degrees" (all material following the "or" is deleted). Then, the following sentences were added:

"If a student withdraws from the JD portion of the joint degree, he/she must satisfy the requirements of the doctorate in educational leadership as if he/she had not been a joint degree candidate. If a student withdraws from the educational leadership portion of the joint degree program, he/she must satisfy the requirements of the JD as if he/she had not been a joint degree candidate." The motion as amended was approved unanimously.

The Council recommended that the Law School's template for joint degree programs be modified to reflect this clarification of intent.

3. Dr. Rachel Shireman presented the request for the Departments of Entomology and Nematology, Environmental Horticulture, and Horticultural Sciences to replace the Master of Agriculture degree with the Master of Science--nonthesis option. The Council unanimously approved the request.
4. Dr. Neil Sullivan presented the revised proposal to establish an interdisciplinary concentration in imaging science and technology. The GPA requirement was lowered to 3.35, and a "blended" exam covering both the major field and the interdisciplinary concentration will be offered by approval of the home department, because every student's degree is firmly rooted in the home department.

Dr. Sullivan also presented signatures from all participating departments. He reported that the program is already growing; Nuclear and Radiological Engineering has been added since the last meeting. Two new courses are being developed, and other departments are expressing interest as well.

For purposes of supervisory committee membership, two members including the chair (who is also a member of the IS&T faculty) must be from the home department; the external member may be within the IS&T concentration (but outside the home department).

Currently listed specialization courses are not intended to be an exhaustive list; the list is expected to grow over time (e.g., microbiology is an obvious omission).

No minimum has been proposed on the number of credits that may be accepted from other institutions in the IS&T concentration. After some discussion, it was agreed that the supervisory committee chair will notify the Graduate School in writing of all non-UF courses taken. An amendment was offered that at least 45 credits must be earned at UF. The proposal as amended was approved unanimously.

5. Dr. Arnold Penland and Dr. Robin Poynor presented the proposal to establish a Master of Arts degree in museology. In response to Council member questions, they clarified that the program director will serve as the graduate coordinator and that two faculty lines have been promised by the central administration.

The Council indicated that this is an exciting proposal, but they also wondered about its focus, i.e., construction of exhibits, etc., or museum management?

Dr. Poynor responded that the focus is really on “collections” management, not overall museum management (e.g., fiscal issues).

The program will be based in the Department of Art. Recruiting will be vigorous internally as well as externally. Students are already aware of it and are contacting department.

The opinion was expressed that geology and paleontology should be included as well. The scope seems narrow relative to the title of program. If it is housed in the Art Department, how easy will it be to branch out to other pertinent areas? In response, Dr. Poynor indicated that they are open to students from other areas, but that the program needs to be rather small. Different courses will be available depending on students’ interests and backgrounds, but it is not intended to attract “hardcore” scientists; they are more likely to be pursuing a Ph.D. than a Master of Arts degree. In reality, the program is aimed primarily at art students, but can be tailored to other interests if necessary. There is agreement that it should be open to researchers as well as artists. However, it is crucial that an interdisciplinary program such as this be housed in a department for resource purposes. The proposal was approved unanimously. BOR approval is anticipated in January 1998.

6. Dr. Holbrook discussed developments regarding the Graduate School of Business proposal since its approval by the Graduate Council.

The information given to the Council at that time was that the name was for marketing purposes only; no current Graduate School functions were to be assumed by the Graduate School of Business. Since then, the University Curriculum Committee has stalled the proposal. New criteria have been imposed: to be a Graduate School of Business, it has to be a “fully functioning” graduate school, which has obvious implications for the future of the Graduate School.

A task force, of which Dean Holbrook is a member, has been formed to investigate the proposal further. If it is to be a fully functioning graduate school of business, the Graduate Council needs to reconsider the proposal in light of this new information.

The Council was concerned that their previous vote was not informed by criteria that were imposed at a later date. At this point, no further vote was taken, but the Council requested that Dr. Holbrook keep the Council apprised of developments. At some point, if appropriate and when further information becomes available, the Council will reconsider the proposal.

During the preceding discussion, Dr. Holbrook left the meeting due to a previous commitment and Dr. Lutz assumed the role of chair.

7. Dr. Ruth Alexander and Ms. Gail Sasnett presented the request from the Department of Exercise and Sport Sciences and the College of Law for JD/MESS and JD/MSESS joint degrees.

The rationale is that market response to the combined program will be strong and thus very helpful to students. A large demand exists on campus for this program.

In response to a question about the approval process for the Law School writing requirement, Ms. Sasnett said typically the law faculty member who is on the supervisory committee makes the decision on satisfaction of the writing requirement. Furthermore, there is a strong preference for a law faculty member to be on committee and that will happen most often, but it is not a requirement. It was speculated that this may be another problem with the Law School joint degree template which should be revisited. It was pointed out that there is little reason why a student would try to avoid having law faculty on his/her committee. The proposal was approved unanimously.

8. The “Fresh Start” Proposal was presented for consideration. The current policy is that all grades count. The rationale for altering the policy is that if a student transfers to another university, his/her GPA starts over. Why not do the same within this university? However, in discussion, several complications arose: (a) the problem of handling courses that would be needed for the new degree and how they would be identified; (b) possible discrimination against students who have not transferred programs; and (c) the possibility of exacerbating the problem of program jumping. In the face of these potential problems, the Council tabled the matter and asked the Graduate Coordinators’ Advisory Council to develop a more detailed proposal for subsequent consideration.
9. The request to permit substitution of the MCAT score for the GRE score for M.D./Ph.D. students was presented. The Council was concerned that approving this request would set a precedent for all joint degree programs on campus. They also noted that taking a second entrance exam is “not that big a deal.” The request was disapproved unanimously.
10. The discussion items were tabled until the December meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:34 p.m.