

MINUTES
GRADUATE COUNCIL
DECEMBER 18, 1997
1:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Karen Holbrook, Chair, Dr. Patricia Ashton, Dr. William Chamberlin, Dr. Frederick Gregory, Dr. Frank Nordlie, Dr. Michael Perfit, Dr. Hugh Popenoe, Dr. Ann Progulsk-Fox.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Barbara Barletta, Dr. Christine Chase, Dr. Joseph Delfino, Dr. Pauline Lawrence, Mr. Clay Scherer, Dr. Richard Yost

GCAC REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT: Dr. Douglas Dankel

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. Reza Abbaschian, Dr. Myrna Courage, Dr. Stephanie Hanson, Mr. Marcus Harvey, Dr. Carl Kukulka, Dr. Niccie McKay.

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

STAFF ABSENT: Ms. Dorothy Long

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

I. ACTION ITEMS

1. The minutes of the Graduate Council meeting of November 20, 1997, were approved after a brief discussion during which a change was made to the last line in the last paragraph of Item #2 which now reads, "the Council recommended that the template for joint degree programs be revisited for possible modification to reflect this clarification of intent."
2. Dr. Myrna Courage presented the modified proposal for an accelerated Master of Science in Nursing (MSN). The Council unanimously approved the proposal.
3. Dr. Carl Kukulka and Dr. Stephanie Hanson presented the proposal for a 4/1 Bachelor of Health Science and Master of Physical Therapy degree program. The degree is needed because the master's degree has become the national standard for entry-level positions in physical therapy. Students will apply as juniors, and then complete two years of baccalaureate work (junior and senior years) and one year of graduate work. Students will be awarded a Bachelor of Health Science degree upon completion of their undergraduate work, which includes a total of 122 credits, and receive their Master of Physical Therapy degree one year later upon completion of 36 graduate credits. The Council unanimously approved this proposal.

4. Dr. Niccie McKay and Dr. Stephanie Hanson presented the request for the Department of Health Services Administration to (1) change the name of the degree from Master of Health Science (MHS) to Master of Health Administration (MHA), and (2) change the name of the program from health and hospital administration to health administration. The Council unanimously approved these changes.
5. Dr. Stephanie Hanson and Dr. Niccie McKay presented the proposal for a new degree program, the Master of Health Administration: Executive Program. Dr. McKay stated that this program is designed for working health professionals who cannot leave their jobs to return to school full-time. The program will allow students to develop strong business skills and analytical tools as well as the ability to apply these skills and knowledge in real-world situations. The Council unanimously approved the proposal, with the stipulation that the program be reviewed by the Council after the first two cohorts have completed the program.
6. Dr. Stephanie Hanson and Dr. Niccie McKay presented the proposal from the Department of Health Services Administration and the College of Law for a JD/MHA joint program. The Council raised a question about a final exam, and Dr. McKay stated this would not be required and that there will be a capstone course. This policy is consistent with other professionally oriented master's programs such as the MBA. The proposal was approved unanimously.
7. Dr. Reza Abbaschian presented the proposal from the Department of Materials Science and Engineering for a combined BS/MS degree. The combined program would allow qualified students to earn both bachelor's and master's degrees in materials science and engineering, saving them a semester of course work. Students would begin MS or ME course work in their senior years. Students with an upper-level GPA of 3.3 or higher will be allowed to "double count" twelve credit hours of graduate level courses. The Council unanimously approved the proposal with the proviso that EMA 6910, which is S/U graded, be replaced with EMA 6905, which is letter graded.
8. The proposed Policy on Graduate Student Development and Unpaid Labor was presented by Mr. Marcus Harvey as a discussion item. The GAU is concerned that students are being exploited and are not being compensated properly by the university for work they perform. It was pointed out that the value to students participating in such activities is not just economic. In addition to professional development, there is often value to the student in terms of course credit earned.

The Council noted that, while the intent of the proposed policy is to avoid abuse of students, the lines drawn between professional development and abuse of students are far murkier than this proposal implies. The Council agreed with the motivation for the proposal, i.e., protecting students from a bad situation. The suggestion was made to flesh out the proposal to identify other kinds of compensation that a student might receive in professional development situations.

Many graduate students are seeking professional training and encouragement in ways the university cannot support financially. For example, there is a concerted effort nationally to provide doctoral students with better training in teaching, a positive development that the university should nurture. The problem is that departments operate on very tight budgets, which may contribute to the potential for abuse. This potential may increase in the future because the university is attempting to expand its graduate enrollment dramatically.

One possible solution in the case of training for teaching responsibilities may be to design the training so it does not entail the student taking over an entire course. Instead, the student may be responsible for several lectures and grade some portion of the course under close supervision of a professor.

The Council suggested circulating the proposal to departments to get their thoughts on this issue and also suggested that it be a subject for a deans meeting. The Council also requested that the Graduate Coordinators' Advisory Council conduct more research on this policy before any further action is contemplated.

9. The Institute for Child Health Policy requested approval from the Graduate Council to permit faculty in the institute to serve as external members of graduate supervisory committees for students/departments requesting their service. After some discussion, the Council voted unanimously to deny the request. The rationale was that since other research centers and non-graduate degree-granting departments do not enjoy this privilege, approval of the request would set a precedent for a flood of similar requests. At the same time, the Council noted that a readily available and straightforward mechanism exists for attaining Graduate Faculty status via a courtesy appointment in a graduate department.
10. Dr. Lutz presented the proposal to eliminate the period of concentrated study requirement. From the analysis of peer institutions' requirements, it is clear that UF has the most stringent requirement. It directly affects the ability of full-time faculty and sub-faculty to pursue a PhD as well as students in the College of Education, who often complete their PhDs over an extended period.

However, the Council postponed discussion of the proposal until a later meeting. At the present time the university is falling below the "corridor" set by the Legislature for graduate enrollment; furthermore, the university's legislative budget request has specified graduate enrollment growth of 500 FTEs for next year. Eliminating the period of concentrated study may have the effect of reducing the number of hours taken by graduate students. Therefore, the proposal must be considered carefully in that context.

The proposal will be brought back at a subsequent meeting; in the meantime, any exceptions to the current policy will be handled by the Graduate School.

11. Dr. Chamberlin suggested a future agenda item regarding graduate student funding in the context of current enrollment growth goals. What is needed is a review of where UF has

been, what initiatives have been undertaken, and what our future needs are. It was suggested to invite the Provost to a meeting to give an overview.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.