

MINUTES  
GRADUATE COUNCIL  
JANUARY 15, 1998  
1:30 P.M.

- MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Karen Holbrook, Chair, Dr. Patricia Ashton, Dr. Barbara Barletta, Dr. William Chamberlin, Dr. Christine Chase, Dr. Joseph Delfino, Dr. Thomas Gallant (substitute), Dr. Pauline Lawrence, Dr. Frank Nordlie, Dr. Michael Perfit, Dr. Hugh Popenoe, Dr. Ann Progulske-Fox, Mr. Clay Scherer, Dr. Richard Yost
- MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Frederick Gregory
- GCAC REPRESENTATIVE ABSENT: Dr. Douglas Dankel
- GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. George Agrios, Dr. Jacob Hammer, Dr. Jay Stein, Dr. Paul Zwick
- STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Richard Lutz, Ms. Helen Martin, Ms. Phyl Schmidt, Ms. Julie Shih, Ms. Bernice Thornton, Ms. Linda Vivian
- STAFF ABSENT: Ms. Dorothy Long, Mr. Bob Woods

The Graduate Council meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m. by Dr. Karen Holbrook.

I. **ACTION ITEMS**

1. The minutes of the Graduate Council meeting of December 18, 1997, were approved as written. Dr. Lutz introduced Dr. Tom Gallant, who will replace Dr. Frederick Gregory during the spring term due to a scheduling conflict, and Ms. Linda Vivian, the new Director of Special Projects for the Graduate School.
2. Dr. Jacob Hammer presented a proposal for a combined BS/MS Program in Electrical and Computer Engineering. Currently senior undergraduate students who have completed core requirements and maintained at least a 3.6 GPA are accepted into the graduate program with 12 hours of graduate course work double counted for both degrees. The purpose is to attract quality students to the graduate program and reward scholarship.

There is a movement in the profession to require a master's degree as the minimum requirement for engineers, creating a need to retain qualified students for graduate training

before they enter the workforce and become unwilling or unable to return for graduate education.

The department requested Council approval to expand the BS/MS program to include undergraduate students who have met core requirements and maintained a 3.3 to 3.59 GPA. This group would be offered admission upon meeting graduate admission requirements and will be allowed to double count 6 credits of graduate work. About 30-40 students would be eligible for the expanded program each year.

The Council expressed concern about the distinction between GPA requirements and double counted course work, suggesting instead a single criterion. The rationale given by the department was that the proposed two-tier approach incorporated a reward system for honor students using recognized levels of scholarship. The department also argued that within the group of qualified students, those with the higher GPAs would be capable of more graduate level work as a senior. The motion to approve was passed unanimously with the Council recommending that the ~~Atier~~ terminology be eliminated in program descriptions.

3. Dr. George Agrios proposed that Plant Pathology drop the M.Ag degree and replace it with the M.S. nonthesis degree. After a brief discussion, the Council unanimously approved the option.
4. Dr. Jay Stein, from Urban and Regional Planning, introduced Dr. Paul Zwick to present a proposal for a Planning Information Systems Certificate. Students requested a certificate program to indicate a level of technical expertise that could be presented to prospective employers. This would not only enhance marketability for employment but provide the program with increased status for graduate recruitment. The present requirement for a master's degree is 52 credits. The certificate program, consisting of 30 credits, would be offered only to students enrolled in the master's program and would be incorporated into the total credit requirement. The five graduate courses proposed for course numbering have been offered previously as Special Topics.

Concerns were expressed regarding the proposed courses because of the overlap with other disciplines, primarily Civil Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Sciences, and Geography. Although the department conveyed that these courses were taught from different perspectives, the Council asked that appropriate department chairs be consulted as required by the Graduate Curriculum Committee. The Council requested clarification of professional qualifications and legal limitations for employment activities related to the award of the certificate. Further discussion of the proposal was tabled until these issues are addressed and presented at a later meeting.

## **II. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. The Council expressed interest in a special meeting to examine the broad graduate education issues identified in The Strategic Plan for Graduate Education. Provost Capaldi

is scheduled to attend the February Graduate Council meeting to discuss issues related to increasing graduate enrollment and the UF Bank.

2. Suggested agenda items for the Spring 1998 meeting of the Graduate Faculty focused on graduate enrollment growth, the effect of the UF Bank on interdisciplinary degrees, assistantship and fellowship funding, professional development opportunities for graduate students, and graduate program quality.
3. Dr. Holbrook invited recommendations for how the Graduate School can market graduate programs for industry funding to augment departmental fund-raising efforts.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.