

MINUTES
GRADUATE COUNCIL
APRIL 16, 1998
1:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Karen Holbrook, Dr. Patricia Ashton, Dr. Barbara Barletta, Dr. William Chamberlin, Dr. Christine Chase, Dr. Joseph Delfino, Dr. Thomas Gallant (substitute), Dr. Frank Nordlie, Dr. Michael Perfit, Dr. Hugh Popenoe, Mr. Clay Scherer

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Pauline Lawrence, Dr. Ann Progulske-Fox, Dr. Richard Yost

GCAC REPRESENTATIVE ABSENT: Dr. Douglas Dankel

GSC REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT: Ms. Trish Ventura

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. Scott Griffiths, Dr. Stephanie Hanson, Dr. Alice Holmes, Dr. Carl Kukulka, Dr. Rachel Shireman

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Richard Lutz, Ms. Helen Martin, Ms. Phyl Schmidt, Ms. Julie Shih, Ms. Linda Vivian

STAFF ABSENT: Ms. Bernice Thornton, Ms. Dorothy Long, Mr. Bob Woods

The Graduate Council meeting was called to order at 1:37 p.m. by Dr. Karen Holbrook.

I. **ACTION ITEMS**

1. The minutes of the Graduate Council meeting of March 19, 1998, were approved as submitted.
2. Dr. Stephanie Hanson, Dr. Scott Griffiths, and Dr. Alice Holmes presented two proposals for options to the Doctor of Audiology degree program in the Colleges of Health Professions and Liberal Arts and Sciences to begin in the Fall 1998 or Spring 1999 term. The AuD is now becoming the entry-level degree for practicing audiologists.

The first proposal is designed for practicing audiologists who hold a graduate degree in audiology from an accredited institution and state licensure or equivalent. This program will be delivered by distance education for working professionals using video workbooks and web interaction. A local site facilitator will proctor written examinations and evaluate the clinical competencies. An on-campus instructor will be responsible for the course work

and develop the written examinations with assistance from the facilitator. Oral examinations will be conducted on campus. Because of the students' background and experience, evaluated through a comprehensive portfolio review, the requirements will be 45 credits to complete the AuD degree.

SUS restrictions to offering a distance education program may not apply since the only Au.D. program currently being offered in the state is at the University of South Florida. No other distance education programs are now available; however, Nova is scheduled to go online this year and a joint Vanderbilt/Central Michigan venture is scheduled for 1999. Concern was expressed that rather than use the Specialist in Education degree as a template for the Au.D., the Ed.D. degree should have been used. The EdD better reflects the practicing doctoral degree. Dr. Hanson explained that because of the clinical residency requirement required for licensure, these students have fulfilled the equivalent of the additional credits beyond the course work required for a master's degree.

The second proposal is designed for applicants who hold a master's degree in audiology from another accredited institution but have not completed a clinical fellowship year equivalent to an audiology residency. This program will be delivered on the university campus and requires 70 credits to complete the Au.D.

The Council passed both proposals unanimously.

3. Dr. Stephanie Hanson presented a proposal from the College of Health Professions to add a thesis degree option to the present Master of Health Science programs in occupational therapy, physical therapy, and rehabilitation counseling. There is an interest by many students to conduct clinical research and to have the work that is already being done recognized as research for thesis credit on the transcript. At the present time, there are enough faculty to monitor the research although small grants would be needed to support major equipment needs beyond existing laboratory facilities. Six semester hours of clinical research credits would be designated in addition to other laboratory learning courses. *The Council passed the proposal unanimously.*
4. A proposal was presented by Dr. Rachel Shireman from the Food Science and Human Nutrition Department to drop the MAg degree option. The department offers the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees. *The proposal was passed unanimously by the Council without discussion.*
5. Dr. Rachel Shireman presented a proposal for a 3/2 program in plant pathology to commence in the Fall 1998 term. A minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.5 and a GRE score of 1200 will be required. Concern was expressed that given the high requirements for entry into the program, there might be a future bias against the nonthesis students. The program is designed for students who intend to become practicing consultants and are not research oriented. However, it is possible to change from the 3/2 program to a regular

master's program after receiving the bachelor's degree should the student desire a thesis program. *The Council passed the proposal unanimously.*

6. Dr. Rachel Shireman presented proposals from the College of Agriculture to offer non-thesis master's degrees using distance education and to offer the non-thesis Master of Agriculture degree from the Department of Food and Resource Economics.

The distance education program would be offered at extension sites according to enrollment requirements through synchronous video conferencing. A demonstration of a class using compressed video was shown on tape. The Division of IFAS Educational Media will fund the start-up costs, and the program will be self-supporting through course fees. *The Council approved the proposal unanimously.*

The proposal to add a MAg degree from the Department of Food and Resource Economics was approved unanimously with no discussion.

7. The Graduate Coordinators= Advisory Council (GCAC) recommended that the bracketed material in the statement below be deleted from the Graduate School policy regarding master's degree final examinations:

A final comprehensive examination must be passed by the candidate. This examination, held on campus with all participants present, will cover the candidate's field of concentration and, in no case, may it be scheduled earlier than the term preceding the semester in which the degree it is to be conferred. The written comprehensive examination for the nonthesis option to the Master of Science and Master of Arts degrees and for nonthesis degrees may be taken at a remote site.

The proposal was unanimously approved.

8. Dr. Holbrook announced the creation of the ORTGE Graduate Mentoring Awards to recognize faculty excellence in mentoring doctoral students. This one-time award, for 20 faculty each year for a three-year period, will consist of a plaque, recognition at an awards reception, and \$5000 to support research. Dr. Holbrook wants to provide more visibility to mentoring and will use these awards as the centerpiece of conversations to promote mentoring by faculty. It is funded for the next three years as a pilot program with the expectation that it will become permanent.

Dr. Lutz submitted an allocation schedule for each college based on enrollment size. The Council recommended that the announcement of the program, criteria, and request for nominees be made now and repeated after the fall term begins, with the awards presented in November.

9. Clay Scherer and Trish Ventura reported that the Graduate Student Appreciation Week activities were a success. Most of the departments sponsored breakfasts for their graduate

students, and 150 people attended the Graduate Student Forum for research presentations by graduate students. Dr. Holbrook offered to provide a DSR grant to help fund the Forum for next year.

10. Dr. Bill Chamberlin expressed his appreciation to the Graduate Council members and Graduate School staff for their work. He will be leaving the Council after serving as a member for six years.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m.