

MINUTES
GRADUATE COUNCIL
MAY 21, 1998
1:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Karen Holbrook, Dr. Barbara Barletta, Dr. Christine Chase, Dr. Joseph Delfino, Dr. Hugh Popenoe, Dr. Ann Progulske-Fox, Dr. Richard Yost, Mr. Clay Scherer

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Patricia Ashton, Dr. William Chamberlin, Dr. Frederick Gregory, Dr. Pauline Lawrence, Dr. Frank Nordlie, Dr. Michael Perfit

GCAC REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT: Dr. Douglas Dankel

GSC REPRESENTATIVE ABSENT: Ms. Trish Ventura

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. Linda Crocker, Dr. Henry Gholz, Dr. John Kraft, Dr. Rachel Shireman, Dr. Gail Sasnett, Dr. Carol Taylor-West

STAFF ABSENT: Ms. Dorothy Long, Ms. Linda Vivian, Mr. Bob Woods

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

I. ACTION ITEMS

1. The minutes of the Graduate Council meeting of April 16, 1998, were approved as submitted.
2. Dr. Linda Crocker presented a request to allow certain 2000-level math courses in calculus to count toward the M.Ed. Due to SUS leveling of course numbers, the mathematics courses at the 3000-level have been renumbered to 2000-level. Master of Education students in elementary and special education are required to complete two sequences of two related courses in areas related to subjects that they may be required to teach. The two sequences of course work must include courses beyond those taken to satisfy minimum state teaching certification requirements and are designed to enhance the academic preparation of master's students, so some sort of dispensation is crucial to being able to continue the program. *The Council approved the request unanimously.*

3. Dr. Linda Crocker briefed the Council on project in lieu of thesis. Approval of a course proposal by the Graduate Curriculum Committee spurred interest in creating a template for other departments. This option exists within a thesis master's program and permits substantial projects that do not fit into the context of traditional theses. However, they are included as thesis credit in meeting UF's BOR requirements for thesis and dissertation credits.
4. Dr. Henry Gholz presented proposals by the School of Forest Resources and Conservation for a 3/2 B.S./M.F.R.C. (nonthesis degree) and a B.S./M.S. (thesis degree). The College of Agriculture is launching an upper-level honors program that they hope will prove to be a good "feeder" into the master's program; the 3/2 option would work quite well in that regard. *Both proposals were approved unanimously.*

There was also a proposal for a J.D./M.S.(Ph.D.) joint degree program between F.R.C. and the College of Law. Under the joint degree program students can obtain both degrees in less time than it would take to obtain both degrees if pursued separately. Students will not receive either degree until all requirements are satisfied. *The proposal was approved unanimously.*

5. Dr. John Kraft and Dr. Carol Taylor-West presented the College of Business M.B.A. concentration in private enterprise and public policy. The concentration uses economic analysis to train students to manage decisions shaped by public policy and to influence policy. It is intended for students interested in careers in consulting and strategic management. It also focuses on the law related to technology management and transfer. *It was approved unanimously by the Council.*
6. Dr. John Kraft presented the proposal requesting revision in requirements for the M.B.A./B.S.I.S.E joint degree program. The joint program was put in place when the M.B.A. program consisted of 60 credits. When the M.B.A. program subsequently was changed to 48 credits, the B.S.I.S.E./M.B.A. program was not modified accordingly. The proposal calls for 36 credits of M.B.A. work rather than the 48 that are on the books. *The proposal was approved unanimously.*
7. Dr. Joseph Delfino presented a request for a Certificate Program in Environmental Policy and Management. The primary reason for the proposal is to have the Dean of the Graduate School sign the certificate, which would give it a higher level of visibility. Students may be postbacs or graduate students. This represents a precedent on "stand-alone" certificates-- all current certificates are offered in conjunction with graduate degrees. Does the Graduate School want to be in this business? There is no threat of the certificate program cannibalizing master's degrees; most will be FEEDS students, and master's programs are not available to them at this time. The proposal is in concert with national trends and industry needs for continuing education credits, and it would produce more graduate student credit hours. The Council approved the certificate for graduate students only. The proposal for the postbaccalaureate portion was tabled until Fall 1998. There is a need to do further research at the national level regarding the role and

“location” of certificates.

8. The Graduate Coordinators Advisory Council recommended a policy change that would allow nonthesis master’s students to count up to 6 credits of S/U graded course work toward their degrees. The current policy does not permit counting S/U courses for in the minimum requirements for students in the nonthesis option of the Master of Science and Master of Arts degrees while thesis students may take as many as a dozen S/U credits. This effectively prevents a nonthesis student from taking 6910 (Supervised Research) or 6940 (Supervised Teaching) as well as other departmental seminars and workshops that are S/U graded. *The Council approved the proposal unanimously.*
9. A change in the required number of faculty attending final examinations was proposed. Currently at least five members of the graduate faculty must attend the oral qualifying exam and final oral exam for Ph.D. students, and at least three faculty must attend the final exam for master’s students. The proposed change was that the Ph.D. oral qualifying exam and final exam and master’s final exam be attended by the entire supervisory committee; when necessary, there may be one graduate faculty substitute, but not for the chair or the external member.

The change would correct an anomaly in that required committee membership is only four for doctoral committees and only two for master’s. *The Council unanimously approved the policy change.*

10. A request was made to permit undergraduate foreign language and literature courses to be included in minor fields. Current Graduate School policy requires that if a doctoral student is pursuing a minor field, at least 12 credits in the minor must be at the 5000 level or above. This creates a problem for students minoring in a foreign language, particularly since some language and literature departments do not have graduate programs or graduate courses. In such instances, it is recommended that the student be permitted to substitute 4000-level course work in the foreign language, with the permission of the supervisory committee. *The Council approved this request unanimously.*
11. A proposal was advanced to modify the period of concentrated study (POCS) requirement. Of a set of peer institutions studied, 12 require residency; 10 require full-time enrollment; and 5 require full-time contiguous residency. UF’s policy is the most stringent, however. Eliminating the POCS may hurt some students, as they sometimes use it to justify absence from their jobs. Departments/colleges can impose more stringent requirements if they wish.

A motion to eliminate any sort of residency requirement altogether was defeated 4-3. Instead it was moved to convert the POCS requirement to a residency requirement (similar to those at most peer institutions). Operationally, residence equates to registration in courses taught on the UF campus. Thus, the proposed requirement read: “Beyond the first 30 hours counted toward the doctoral program, students must complete 30 hours in residence at the University of Florida campus or at approved branch stations of the

University of Florida Agricultural Experiment Stations.” Under this model, again, each department or college could establish and monitor its own more stringent requirement as desired. *The motion passed unanimously.*

Dr. Holbrook thanked the departing members of the Graduate Council: Dr. Patricia Ashton, Dr. Bill Chamberlin, Dr. Pauline Lawrence, Dr. Richard Yost, and Mr. Clay Scherer for their dedicated service.

The Graduate Council meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.