

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. M. Jack Ohanian, Chair, Dr. Carol Reed Ash, Dr. Christine Chase, Dr. Joseph Delfino, Dr. Steve Dorman, Dr. Frederick Gregory, Dr. Pushpa Kalra, Dr. Frank Nordlie, Dr. Michael Perfit, Dr. Hugh Popenoe, Dr. Jerry Stimac, Ms. Trish Ventura

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Barbara Barletta, Dr. Ann Progulske-Fox

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. William Chen, Dr. Anthony Dasta, Dr. Stephanie Hanson, Dr. Raymond Issa, Dr. Michael Martinez, Dr. Niccie McKay, Dr. Brad Pollock, Dr. Rachel Shireman, Mr. Wes Wilson

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Richard Lutz, Dr. Dovie Gamble, Ms. Phyl Schmidt, Ms. Julie Shih, Ms. Bernice Thornton, Ms. Linda Vivian

STAFF ABSENT: Ms. Dorothy Long, Ms. Helen Martin

The Graduate Council meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Dr. M. Jack Ohanian. Dr. Ohanian introduced Dr. Dovie Gamble, Interim Director of Graduate Minority Programs.

I. **ACTION ITEMS**

1. The minutes of the Graduate Council meeting of September 16, 1998, were approved as written.
2. Dr. Stephanie Hanson, Dr. Niccie McKay, Dr. Brad Pollock, and Dr. William Chen presented a proposal from the Colleges of Health Professions, Health and Human Performance, and Medicine to offer an interdisciplinary program leading to the Master of Public Health (MPH). This program is designed to prepare students to become effective educators, researchers, and service leaders in the prevention of disease and promotion of health at the community level. Presently, this program is offered only at the University of South Florida which cannot accommodate the increasing demand for health professionals in the state.

The program will include a minimum of 36 semester credits at the graduate level with 15 credits in core public health courses, 9 credits in an emphasis area, 6 credits of public health elective, and 6 credits of a final special project. The project requirements were not specified since it will be determined by the area of specialization, approved by the supervisory committee.

A question was raised about the ability of students to bridge the gap between theory and applied research based on the statistical courses required. However, the research methods courses should provide the necessary elements for both types. It was suggested that the supervisory committee composition be amended to require at least one member from each college. The 3.0 overall undergraduate GPA requirement for admissions should be amended to add “or better” to the phrasing.

In addition to existing UF resources available to graduate students, the Department of Health will fund their employees who enroll in the programs. Dr. McKay expressed confidence that large numbers of students would not withdraw to attend medical school.

The Council approved the proposal unanimously.

3. Dr. Raymond Issa and Dr. Anthony Dasta presented a proposal for the creation of the Master of International Construction Management (MICM) degree, a nonthesis, distance education graduate program with emphasis on corporate/strategic management, project management, and construction management. Employers initiated the effort to provide a program for their international working professionals who cannot attend the University of Florida campus in a traditional semester format.

This degree will prepare students to assume upper level construction management responsibilities in any multinational construction company. This program is designed to appeal to a different constituency and will not undermine on-campus enrollment. To be admitted, students must meet the University of Florida admissions requirements plus have at least 5 years of meaningful, supervisory construction management experience, and be sponsored by their employer.

The distance education format utilizes interactive technology and proctored course final examinations. Students are required to pass a comprehensive oral and/or written exam at the completion of the course work and write a research report or project.

The program will be self-supporting without relying on state funding. The University of Florida Division of Continuing Education (DOCE) will administer the program and receive a 10% fee. Faculty will travel to the international location for examinations and consultation. Compensation may be up to 25% additional payment for overload teaching through DOCE. The Council discussed whether this was a University of Florida program or an extension program with outside funding; the conclusion was that this program is an example of outreach methods being implemented through distance education.

The Council approved the proposal unanimously.

4. A proposal was presented by Dr. Alice Holmes for the establishment of a PhD program in health services research. Graduates are expected to find employment opportunities in research, teaching, or industry. Requirements include 30 credits in foundations, 9 credits in a health services core, 12 credits in advanced health services seminars, and 12 credits in a health services research methods core. Additional credits in affiliated areas and dissertation research meet the required 90-credit minimum.

Although there are some existing funds for the program, the need for increased funding will be highlighted to the BOR. This will allow for increased faculty and new course development. Without current doctoral students, full course development has not yet taken place.

The Council approved the proposal unanimously.

5. Dr. Niccie McKay from the College of Health Professions presented a proposal to waive the GRE admissions requirement for applicants to the AuD and Executive MHA programs. About three-fourths of the applicants are working professionals over the age of forty. Previous GRE test scores are usually over 5 years old and no longer available through the Educational Testing Service.

Applicants to the AuD program have master's degrees from an accredited institution, have passed national standardized exams, and have clinical experience with continuing education credits. Although applicants to the EMHA program have not passed standardized examinations, they have a professional track record that does not fit the traditional applicant profile.

Council members expressed concern that this would be setting a precedent for GRE exemptions that transcends the particular request. Based on the justification presented, any program with national examinations or a mature student population could qualify for a GRE waiver.

A motion was made to table the motion until an analysis and peer institution comparison could be conducted by the Graduate School along with a modification to the proposal by the College of Health Professions. In particular, a more complete description and rationale are needed for the mechanism to be used in lieu of the GRE to assess prospective students' qualifications for graduate study.

The Council unanimously approved the motion to table.

6. Dr. Rachel Shireman presented a proposal from the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering in the College of Agriculture for a 3/2 program in the agricultural operations management track. The same program in the College of Engineering was approved in September. *The Council approved the proposal unanimously.*

7. Dr. Michael Martinez presented a proposal from the Department of Political Science for an accelerated BA/MA program that will incorporate all related certificate programs. *The Council approved the proposal unanimously.*
8. Dr. M. Jack Ohanian presented the modified policy regarding graduate students taking undergraduate courses.

Proposed policy: The minimum number of credits required for a graduate degree must be earned in graduate level courses. An exception may be made for one 4000 level course, outside the major, with written justification by the student's supervisory committee chair and prior approval of the department chair, college dean, and the Graduate School. Graduate students may take additional undergraduate courses, but credits earned in these may not be counted toward the minimum degree requirements.

The Council approved the proposal with a 9-1 vote. This policy will go into effect Fall 1999. All new students admitted for the first time or re-admitted in Fall 1999 will be subject to the policies and regulations promulgated in the 1999-2000 Graduate Catalog. Students entering prior to Fall 1999 who have been continuously enrolled are governed by the policies stated in the Graduate Catalog in effect at the time of their initial enrollment. Therefore, previously admitted students with an intended program of study already in place are not affected by this policy change, except to the extent that certain undergraduate courses may no longer be offered. Previously admitted students without an established program of study should be counseled to take graduate rather than undergraduate courses, to the extent possible.

9. Dr. Richard Lutz presented a proposed new policy for transfer of credits.

Proposed policy: By petition from the supervisory committee, any University of Florida graduate-level course work completed with a grade of B or better by a student enrolled as an undergraduate, postbaccalaureate, or nondegree seeking student may be counted toward a graduate degree, provided that the credits were not counted toward the previous degree. Normally, no more than 15 credits may be transferred into the student's graduate program. Special consideration will be given to students in a joint degree or concurrent degree program.

The Council approved the proposal unanimously. Petitions should be directed to the Graduate Records Office, 288 Grinter Hall.

10. Dr. Joe Delfino presented a proposal from the College of Engineering to increase the final term registration requirement from three to six credits because of the degree of faculty involvement in thesis or dissertation review. Only one term can be designated as final. If the student does not graduate as planned, the department can enforce full time enrollment status.

This motion was withdrawn and a modified motion was presented which proposed that an individual college may have additional enrollment requirements above 3 credits for the final term.

The Council approved the proposal by an 8-2 vote.

II. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. The Provost is reviewing the proposal for the establishment of a Graduate School of Business. She will inform the Council about the next steps.
2. Referenced were the documents on the curriculum change in the MBA/MHA and JD/MHA programs plus the submission form for the Electronic Thesis and Dissertation pilot project included as Enclosures 11 and 12 in the Council agenda.

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