

MINUTES
GRADUATE COUNCIL
DECEMBER 17, 1998
1:00 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. Frank Nordlie, Dr. Michael Perfit, Dr. Hugh Popenoe, Ms. Trish Ventura
- MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Barbara Barletta, Dr. Ann Progulske-Fox, Dr. Pushpa Kalra, Dr. Jerry Stimac
- GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. Matt Baker, Dr. Fitzhugh Brundage, Dr. Bill Chamberlin, Dr. Raymond Issa, Dr. Ron Nutter, Dr. Edward Osborne, Ms. Gail Sasnett, Dr. Rachel Shireman, Dr. Suzanna Smith, Mr. Wes Wilson, Dr. John Wright
- STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Richard Lutz, Dr. Dovie Gamble, Ms. Helen Martin, Ms. Phyl Schmidt, Ms. Julie Shih, Ms. Bernice Thornton, Ms. Linda Vivian

The Graduate Council meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Dr. M. Jack Ohanian.

I. **ACTION ITEMS**

1. The minutes of the Graduate Council meeting of November 18, 1998, were approved with two corrections to the attendance list.
2. Dr. Raymond Issa from the College of Architecture presented a proposal requesting that correspondence courses be accepted as transfer credit based on accreditation and course content. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) policy statement and the Board of Regents strategic plan include correspondence courses under the broader definition of distance education.

Concern was expressed by Council members that accreditation provides requirements for minimum standards and does not ensure a high level of quality. However, since some correspondence courses may be of sufficient quality to be acceptable for transfer credit, the Council requested that a policy statement and guidelines with input from the graduate deans be submitted by the Graduate School for consideration at a future meeting. *The motion to consider a policy statement passed unanimously.*

3. Dr. John Wright and Dr. Bill Chamberlin from the College of Journalism, and Ms. Gail Sasnett from the College of Law, presented a proposal for a joint JD/PhD degree in law and mass communications as an extension of the graduate program in media

law. It is designed to prepare students to teach media law and produce publishable legal research at major universities. *The Council approved the proposal unanimously.*

4. Dr. Fitzhugh Brundage from the Department of History and Ms. Gail Sasnett from the College of Law presented a proposal for a joint JD/MA degree in law and history in addition to the current JD/PhD program. Often, students are unable to invest the additional time needed to complete a doctoral program; providing a master's option will allow them to complete a joint program within a reasonable timeframe. *The proposal was approved unanimously.*
5. A proposal was submitted by Dr. Rachel Shireman and Dr. Suzanna Smith from the College of Agriculture for MS and MAg degrees in human resource development. Students with a degree in this discipline are prepared to work effectively with vulnerable population groups. Although use of the MAg degree is being phased out, it is required in this case because there is no doctoral program, a requirement for offering a nonthesis MS degree. *The Council approved the proposal unanimously with a suggestion to consider a name change to better distinguish this program from human resources management in the College of Business.*
6. Dr. Edward Osborne from the Department of Agricultural Education and Communication presented a proposal for a PhD program. Enrollment in the master's program continues to grow and a national demand exists for PhD graduates. Presently, there are 15 departmental assistantships, some of which will be used for doctoral students along with faculty grants. More effort will be made to average advising loads and provide faculty training. *The proposal was approved unanimously.*
7. Dr. Richard Lutz provided an update on the status on the second phase of the Electronic Thesis and Dissertation (ETD) pilot project and presented a proposal to continue the project:

The Graduate Council authorizes continuation of the Electronic Thesis and Dissertation (ETD) Pilot Project during the Spring 1999 term. In addition to working with certain key colleges and departments, the pilot project is expanded to allow any graduate student the option of submitting an ETD rather than a paper version.

Twelve students submitted theses and dissertations in PDF format during the fall term. A few computer compatibility problems were identified requiring additional computer training for students at an earlier stage of document development. Past phases of the pilot project have included students from specified departments to bring a range of student computer skills and a variety of media formats to the second phase. Because of interest expressed by students outside these departments, the next phase would allow any interested student to participate with signed approval by their supervisory committees.

The proposal was passed unanimously with a request that the Graduate School notify all departments of the campuswide option to participate.

8. Dr. Lutz presented a proposal from the Graduate School:

With the increasing number of new program proposals generated in response to the University's graduate growth initiative (especially combined bachelor's/master's programs), the Graduate Council grants the Graduate School authority to approve such proposals administratively and bring them to the Graduate Council only in exceptional circumstances. This policy applies to all joint programs for which established templates exist (combined bachelor's/master's programs and JD joint programs), which involve combinations of existing internal (UF) programs (Attachment).

The Council passed the motion unanimously.

9. With passage of the above proposal, consideration of a combined bachelor's/master's program in environmental science and interdisciplinary ecology from the College of Natural Resources and Environment was referred to the Graduate School by adding a minimum GRE score of 1100 as an admission requirement.

II. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Referenced was Enclosure 10, the review of Fall 1998 graduate admissions statistics. Dr. Lutz noted that there were no appreciable differences from last year in GPA or GRE scores with the 5% increase in admission.
2. Council minutes, program and policy changes, and new program templates are now available on the Graduate School's faculty Web page in PDF format.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.