

MINUTES
GRADUATE COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 18, 1999
1:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Richard Lutz, Acting Chair, Dr. Barbara Barletta, Dr. Christine Chase, Dr. Steve Dorman, Dr. Frederick Gregory, Dr. Frank Nordlie, Dr. Michael Perfit, Dr. Hugh Popenoe, Dr. Ann Progulsk-Fox, Dr. Jerry Stimac

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Jack Ohanian, Chair, Dr. Carol Reed Ash, Dr. Joseph Delfino, Dr. Pushpa Kalra, Ms. Trish Ventura

GUESTS PRESENT: Mr. Wes Wilson

STAFF PRESENT: 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 1:45 p.m. by Dr. Richard Lutz.

I. **ACTION ITEMS**

1. The minutes of the Graduate Council meeting of January 21, 1999, were approved with one correction to the attendance list.
2. Dr. Richard Lutz requested Council clarification of the current Graduate Faculty appointment policy. The current policy states, "Appointment to the Graduate Faculty must be supported by a two-thirds vote of all *on-campus Graduate Faculty in the appointing department.*"

Graduate Faculty are often appointed outside their budgeted departments as affiliate or courtesy appointments. Some departments differentiate faculty by budgetary appointment and others do not. Who should be eligible to vote on Graduate Faculty appointments? The Council expressed concern about use of the term "on-campus" because of the large contingent of off-campus faculty assigned to IFAS and engineering extension programs.

An addition to the policy was proposed to allow the departments flexibility: "Appointment to the Graduate Faculty must be supported by two-thirds vote of all eligible Graduate Faculty in the appointing department. **Eligibility is to be determined by the department or program.**" *The Council approved the proposal unanimously.*

3. Dr. Richard Lutz proposed a policy change regarding correspondence courses as transfer credit.

Proposed Policy

The statement, "Correspondence Work.—No courses taken by correspondence may be used for graduate credit," will be eliminated from the *Graduate Catalog*. Although individual graduate program criteria may be more restrictive, the Board of Regents and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools have validated the inclusion of correspondence work under the broader

definition of distance education. Therefore, the responsibility will rest with the colleges to base acceptance of graduate credits using the same criteria for academic integrity as for any other course being considered as transfer credit.

The Council approved the proposal unanimously.

4. The guidelines used by departments to submit new programs for Board of Regents approval do not contain all of the information necessary for Graduate Council review. Therefore, an addendum is needed to ensure this information is provided. Presently, there is no inclusion of administrative structure (which is essential to understand interdisciplinary programs) and no evaluation of faculty expertise. The Council expressed concern about the inability to distinguish between supervisory committee involvement at the master's and doctoral degree levels. However, in some cases faculty have not yet been appointed. The review should assess the viability of the program professionally and academically; it is not intended to evaluate the faculty. *The Council unanimously voted to table further consideration until specific modifications could be identified.*
5. Dr. Lutz presented a proposal to delete "or a substitute therefor" from the foreign language requirement in the *Graduate Catalog*. It was originally intended to permit the use of a computer "language" in place of a foreign language. However, since there is no longer a university foreign language requirement, having a substitute is not applicable. *The Council unanimously approved the proposal.*

II. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. One outcome of the recent suicide by a Harvard University graduate student is the emerging interest by universities in creating some form of a Graduate Student Bill of Rights. The Association of American Universities (AAU) currently is drafting a document for national distribution. Council members were particularly interested in having a document that affirms responsibilities for both graduate students and faculty. The Council decided to postpone any action until the AAU document has been published and can be reviewed for applicability to the University of Florida.
2. Dr. Lutz referenced the progress report on the strategic planning recommendations that was prepared for the Vice President/Dean candidates. Although much progress has been made, the Council expressed a need to be proactive in proposing improvements and possible meetings to consider specific issues in detail. Dr. Lutz welcomed Council input on agenda items and other suggestions for topics regarding the future of graduate education at the University of Florida.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.