

MINUTES
GRADUATE COUNCIL
September 16, 1999
1:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Winfred Phillips, Chair, Dr. Carol Reed Ash, Dr. Gijs Bosman, Dr. Dawn Bowers, Dr. Steve Dorman, Dr. Frederick Gregory, Dr. Bob Kennedy, Dr. Frank Nordlie, Dr. Michael Perfit, Dr. Jill Peterson, Dr. Hugh Popenoe, Dr. Jerry Stimac, Mr. Wes Wilson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Pushpa Kalra,

GUESTS PRESENT: Ms. Raina Joines

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Richard Lutz, Dr. Dovie Gamble, Ms. Linda Vivian, Ms. Gann Enholm, Ms. Helen Martin, Ms. Julie Shih

Dr. Winfred Phillips called the Graduate Council meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

I. **ACTION ITEMS**

1. The minutes of the Graduate Council meeting of June 17, 1999, were approved as written.
2. Dr. Charles Kilbert from the School of Building Construction presented a proposal for a new master's degree concentration in sustainable construction. Professional societies in the construction industry are defining methods to address increasing regulations for minimal environmental impact. This will require professionals with a background in sustainability to provide the necessary expertise. Graduates with this concentration will be able to relate the activities associated with the built environment to the impact on the natural environment. *The Council approved the proposal unanimously.*
3. Representing a committee comprised of representatives from eight academic units in four colleges, Dr. Michael Binford from the Department of Geography, Dr. Scot Smith from the Department of Civil Engineering, and Dr. Paul Zwick from the Department of Urban and Regional Planning presented a proposal for an interdisciplinary concentration and a certificate in geographic information systems. The objective is to provide a set of courses and activities for students to become experts in the creation, study, and use of geographic information through any of the five areas of specialization beyond the core requirements: GIS fundamentals, geomatics, geostatistics, image processing fundamentals, and spatial analysis, modelling and decision support. Graduates would be in a strong position to meet professional certification, as this requirement becomes necessary.

Concern was expressed that students outside the eight academic units would be at a disadvantage. To oversee administration, the founding governing board consists of a chair, vice chair, and secretary, along with individual faculty from eight academic units to approve the addition of new members from academic units not already represented and to review the addition of new courses. *The Council approved the proposal unanimously.*

4. Dr. Lutz from the Graduate School presented a proposal for a policy modification regarding the appointment of a faculty member (nontenure track) who would also be a Ph.D. student in the same department. Under existing guidelines, this appointment would violate the conflict of interest criterion.

Proposal

Relax the restriction on a student pursuing a graduate degree in the same department as s/he is employed. Department chair and any other employment supervisor may not chair supervisory committee and normally should not be a member (exception may be granted by the Graduate School via petition at the time of admission).

Some Council members expressed concern with setting a precedent that combines the role of colleague, employee, and student within the same department. Other members saw this as enabling departments to recruit quality graduate students by offering a professional position. *The Council voted 8 to 3 to retain the policy prohibiting faculty from being students within the same department.*

II. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

The Council expressed their appreciation to Dr. Richard Lutz, Senior Associate Dean, as he returns to his full-time faculty position in the Department of Marketing. Dr. Phillips announced that there are five candidates being considered for the associate dean position.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.