

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Frank Nordlie, Acting Chair, Dr. Gijs Bosman, Dr. Dawn Bowers, Dr. Frederick Gregory, Dr. Pushpa Kalra, Dr. Bob Kennedy, Dr. Jill Peterson, Dr. Hugh Popenoe, Mr. Wes Wilson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Winfred Phillips, Dr. Carol Reed Ash, Dr. Steve Dorman, Dr. Michael Perfit, Dr. Jerry Stimac

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. Selcuk Erenguc, Ms. Raina Joines, Ms. Kathryn Kidder, Dr. Carol Murphy, Dr. Lewis Sussman

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt, Dr. Dovie Gamble, Ms. Linda Vivian, Ms. Gann Enholm, Ms. Helen Martin, Ms. Julie Shih, Ms. Bernice Thornton

Dr. Frank Nordie, acting chair in the absence of Dr. Win Phillips, called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. and introduced Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt, the new associate dean for the Graduate School.

**I. ACTION ITEMS**

1. The minutes of the November 18, 1999, Graduate Council meeting were approved with the addition of the statement to item 3 regarding the interdisciplinary concentration and certificate in geographic information systems, "Concern was expressed that students outside the eight academic units would be at a disadvantage."
2. Kathryn Kidder from Academic Spoken English presented a proposal for the Graduate School to petition BOR for a waiver regarding certain international teaching assistants. This waiver would exempt international teaching assistants who received a score of 45 on the SPEAK/TSE and satisfactorily passed ENS 5502 from the requirement to retake the test and receive a minimum score of 50. Much concern has been expressed about the English language proficiency of international teaching assistants. According to new BOR requirements, these students must receive a minimum test score of 50. Students with a score of 45 must retake the test after one semester and receive a score of 50 to continue teaching.

The University of Florida requires a test score of 55. All international teaching assistants who receive scores of 50 or 45 must enroll in ENS 5502 and receive a satisfactory grade to continue teaching. Retaking the test is not required by the university for students who received a score of 45 and would not be in BOR compliance. (Students who received a score of 50 are already in compliance.) The rationale for the proposal is that satisfactorily completing ENS 5502 is already meeting the intent of the new BOR rule; a focus on retaking the test would compromise the course content. *The Council approved the proposal unanimously.*

3. Dr. Lewis Sussman from the Department of Classics and Dr. Carol Murphy, associate dean from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences presented a proposal to establish a

Ph.D. degree in classical studies designed for high school and community college Latin and humanities teachers, and preparation for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate programs. The program of classical studies has a unified systemic study of civilization in contrast with classics, which examines literature and authors. The MA in classics or a closely related degree is a prerequisite for admission to the doctoral program. The Council questioned whether the Doctor of Letters was a more appropriate degree for teacher training rather than the Doctor of Philosophy, a research degree. Although not opposed to the former degree, the department had considered degree options and preferred the research degree to instill confidence and encourage graduates to publish throughout their careers. *The Council approved the proposal with 7 in favor and 2 opposing.*

4. The Council considered whether additional course work from the University of Florida should be required for exceptional students who have already completed required course work at another institution. Current Council policy requires a 3.0 GPA in the major work for graduation; research credits are S/U. Some members expressed concern that a degree must reflect the institution, represented by a body of major course work completed at the University of Florida. Other members believed that research conducted under the tutelage of a UF professor outweighed where course work was completed, as long as a qualifying exam was passed satisfactorily at the University of Florida. *The Council voted to endorse the current requirements for a PhD degree as stated in the Graduate Catalog.*
5. Linda Vivian, from the Graduate School, presented a proposal requesting clarification of the transfer of credit policy for combination bachelor's/master's programs. Because the combination programs are allowed to dual-count graduate credits, the transfer of credit policy needs to clearly reflect whether C+ and C grades in graduate courses taken as an undergraduate may dual count toward the graduate degree. According to current policy, only A, B+, or B grades are eligible for transfer.

#### Current Policy

Only graduate (5000-7999) level work to the extent of 9 semester hours, earned with a grade of A, B+, or B, may be transferred from an institution approved by the Graduate School; or 15 semester hours from postbaccalaureate work at the University of Florida.

#### Recommended Policy

Only graduate (5000-7999) level work to the extent of 9 semester hours, earned with a grade of A, B+, or B, may be transferred from an institution approved by the Graduate School; or 15 semester hours from postbaccalaureate work at the University of Florida; *or counted toward the graduate degree as part of an approved combination bachelor's/master's program...*

Dr. Selcuk Erencuk from the Department of Decision and Information Sciences asserted that graduate courses dual counted should be considered the same as those taken by graduate students, and eligible for transfer to count toward the graduate degree. Ms. Vivian affirmed that in no other circumstances are graduate courses transferred with C+ or C grades from work at the University of Florida or another institution. The motion was amended to, " Only graduate (5000-7999) level work to the extent of 9 semester hours, earned with a grade of A, B+, or B, may be transferred from an institution approved by the Graduate School; or 15 semester hours from postbaccalaureate work at the University of Florida; *or A, B+ B, C+, or C in graduate-level courses may be counted*

*toward the graduate degree as part of an approved combination bachelor's/master's program...*

*The Council defeated the motion with 4 in favor and 5 opposed, with a request to revisit the policy at a future meeting. The Graduate School will provide additional information for review.*

6. Linda Vivian from the Graduate School presented a proposal to modify the S/U option for graduate courses.

Current Policy

...All 1000 and 2000 level courses may be taken S/U...

Recommended Policy

... All 1000, 2000, and 3000 level courses may be taken S/U. Courses at the 4000 level not counted toward the graduate degree may be taken S/U. (Effective for students admitted 1999-2000 academic year.)

Because graduate students may no longer routinely count 3000 and 4000 level courses toward the minimum degree requirements, the current S/U option should be expanded from 1000 and 2000 level courses to allow students more flexibility in courses not counted toward their graduate programs. However, an S/U option provides the faculty a measure of student accountability for course requirements not available with an audit enrollment. *The Council approved the proposal with 8 votes in favor and 1 abstention.*

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.