

MINUTES
GRADUATE COUNCIL
January 20, 2000
1:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt, Acting Chair, Dr. Gijs Bosman, Dr. Dawn Bowers, Dr. Pushpa Kalra, Dr. Bob Kennedy, Dr. Frank Nordlie, Dr. Michael Perfit, Dr. Jill Peterson, Dr. Hugh Popenoe, Dr. Jerry Stimac, Mr. Wes Wilson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Winfred Phillips, Chair, Dr. Carol Reed Ash, Dr. Steve Dorman, Dr. Frederick Gregory

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. Mathew Baker, Ms. Raina Joines Dr. Marian Limacher, Dr. Niccie McKay, Dr. Colin Sumners, Dr. Carol West

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

Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt, acting chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

I. DISCUSSION ITEM

The Graduate School presented information regarding substitution of the GRE with professional tests, most specifically the MCAT. The BOR requirements allow some flexibility in substituting other tests for the GRE:

- (3) Each applicant to a graduate program or a post-baccalaureate professional program shall be required to present his/her score on the Aptitude Test of the Graduate Record Examination, or an equivalent score on an equivalent measure approved by the Board. The university may waive this requirement in individual cases.

Of the ten AAU peer institutions surveyed, six referenced instances where professional tests could substitute for the GRE. Scores were compared from students at the University of Florida who had taken the GRE and MCAT. Students whose MCAT scores were of a level to be admitted to the professional program had GRE scores well above the 1000 minimum requirement.

Council members expressed concern about making a special exception for these students while other graduate students in medical sciences programs are required to submit GRE scores. Additionally, the GRE is never allowed to substitute for the professional test. *The Council requested that admissions criteria for graduate students be an action item on the agenda for the next meeting.*

II. ACTION ITEMS

1. The minutes of the December 16, 1999, Graduate Council meeting were approved with a typographical correction to the roster.
2. Dr. Mathew Baker from the Department of Agricultural Education and Communication presented a proposal to offer a nonthesis option for the MS degree in agricultural education and communication. Currently, the Master of Agriculture degree has been used for students pursuing a nonthesis degree. The MAg would be reserved for students enrolled in the off-campus program. Students enrolled on campus would pursue the MS nonthesis option. *The Council approved the proposal unanimously.* Effective date: Fall 2000.
3. Dr. Carol West from the Department of Economics presented a proposal for a MBA concentration in Latin American Business. This concentration would be part of an effort to integrate area and language studies in four 2-credit modules taught by faculty with experience and contacts in the region. *The Council approved the proposal unanimously.* Effective date: Fall 2000
4. Dr. Niccie McKay from the Department of Health Services Administration presented a proposal for a stand-alone Master of Health Administration. The existing degree is currently being offered in two joint degree programs with the College of Law (JD/MHA) and the College of Business Administration (MBA/MHA). The requirement by the MBA program regarding prior work experience for students admitted to their program created a serious problem for the MHA program. The joint program with the College of Law is a small program that could not be administered with current staff. Therefore, the three colleges determined that the stand-alone MHA degree would be the most appropriate option. Students already enrolled in the joint programs would be permitted to complete their degrees, but no new students would be admitted. New students interested in a JD or MBA along with a MHA could pursue concurrent degrees. *The Council approved the proposal unanimously.*
5. Dr. Colin Sumners and Dr. Marian Limacher from the College of Medicine presented their revised proposal to address Council concerns expressed at the December meeting. The concerns focused on potential conflict of interest issues resulting from faculty as students being supervised by other faculty and the appropriateness of substituting the MCAT for the GRE.

The supervisory committee would consist of two members. The chair would have a Graduate Faculty appointment in the College of Medicine but would not be from the student's budgetary department. The other member would have a Graduate Faculty appointment, but not necessarily from the College of Medicine. An ad hoc committee would be convened by the program director to investigate complaints and grievances. All applicants will have taken the GRE or MCAT. Because it is a clinical research degree versus a scientific research degree, the MCAT is proposed as a substitute for the GRE. There is national precedent for a substitution among AAU peer institutions. *The Council approved the proposal unanimously.*

III. INFORMATION ITEM

The AAU has authored a Graduate Student Bill of Rights. The Graduate Student Council has adapted the document for the University of Florida and will present it at a future meeting for endorsement by the Graduate Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.