

**MINUTES
GRADUATE COUNCIL
February 17, 2000
1:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Winfred Phillips, Chair, Dr. Carol Reed Ash, Dr. Gijs Bosman, Dr. Frederick Gregory, Dr. Frank Nordlie, Dr. Michael Perfit, Dr. Jerry Stimac, Mr. Wes Wilson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Dawn Bowers, Dr. Steve Dorman, Dr. Pushpa Kalra, Dr. Bob Kennedy, Dr. Jill Peterson, Dr. Hugh Popenoe

GUESTS PRESENT: Ms. Raina Joines

STAFF PRESENT: Ms. Linda Vivian, Ms. Gann Enholm, Ms. Helen Martin, Ms. Julie Shih, Ms. Lorna Dishman

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

I. ACTION ITEMS

1. The minutes of the January 20, 2000, Graduate Council meeting were approved as written.
- 2A. Linda Vivian from the Graduate School presented a proposal regarding graduate registration in undergraduate courses.

Proposed Policy

Graduate credit is awarded for courses numbered 5000 and above. The work in the major field must in courses numbered 5000 or above. For work outside the major, courses number 3000 or above, not to exceed 6 credits, may be taken provided they are part of an approved plan of study.

As graduate programs become increasingly innovative, it is not always possible for graduate students to enroll in requisite courses at the graduate level. By allowing more flexibility in the use of 3000 and 4000 level undergraduate courses, departments are relieved of the burden of revising course content and dual-level course numbering to accommodate the current policy. The 6-credit limit was added to ensure the integrity of a graduate degree and boost graduate FTE. *The Council approved the proposal unanimously. Effective Fall 1999.*

- 2B. Linda Vivian from the Graduate School presented a proposal regarding S/U graded undergraduate courses. With the approval of the previous policy, it is no longer appropriate to routinely allow 3000 and 4000 level courses to be taken as S/U. All 1000 and 2000 level courses may still be taken S/U. *The Council approved the proposal unanimously. Effective immediately.*

3. Linda Vivian from the Graduate School presented a proposal to modify graduate admissions requirements.

Proposed Policy

The Graduate School, University of Florida, requires both a minimum grade average of B for all upper-division undergraduate work and a minimum Verbal-Quantitative total score of 1000 on the General Test of the Graduate Record Examination **for students with an earned bachelor's degree only**. For some departments, and in more advanced levels of graduate study, grade point average or Graduate Record Examination scores above those stated for the Graduate School may be required. **Applicants with a previous graduate or professional degree or equivalent from a regionally accredited U.S. institution may be exempt from the Graduate Record Examination and undergraduate GPA requirements.** Inquiries about specific requirements should be addressed to the department in question. Some colleges and departments require a reading knowledge of at least one foreign language. Exceptions to the above requirements are made only when these and other criteria, including letters of recommendation, are reviewed by the department, recommended by the department, and approved by the Dean of the Graduate School.

This policy would allow applicants with a previous graduate or professional degree from a regionally accredited U.S. institution to be exempt from the Graduate Record Examination and undergraduate GPA requirements. Students with a bachelor's degree only and international students would still be required to meet BOR minima.

The minimum requirements, as currently stated by BOR, are appropriate for students who are first-time graduate students. Submitting a 3.0 undergraduate GPA and a 1000 combined GRE score provides two objective factors that can be used in the evaluation process to predict success. For students with a previous graduate or professional degree, the admissions review would focus primarily on the applicant's potential for success within a particular discipline. Therefore, colleges and departments would decide what criteria are necessary for admissions and set their own minimum requirements. Although the Registrar and Graduate School would monitor admissions criteria as set forth in the proposal, colleges and departments have the discretion to set more stringent or additional requirements.

Some Council members expressed concern about the potential effect on the reputation and ranking of programs. However, since many recent waivers to the GRE have been approved for programs, the Council acknowledged that the new policy would grant the same policy for all applicants with previous graduate or professional degrees. *The Council approved the proposal unanimously with the addition of the phrase "may be exempt from the Graduate Record Examination, or GMAT if required..."*

II. DISCUSSION ITEM

Dr. Phillips solicited recommendations on ways to improve the quality of graduate programs. A recommendation was made to correlate test scores and graduation rates as a

reference for departments as they determine admissions criteria. Additionally, a review process should be scheduled for new programs when they are approved to ensure that they add value to graduate education. This could be done on a flexible report plan to the Graduate Council, depending on the level of concern at the time of approval.

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