

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Winfred Phillips, Chair, Dr. Carol Reed Ash, Dr. Gijs Bosman, Dr. Dawn Bowers, Dr. Pushpa Kalra, Dr. Bob Kennedy, Dr. Frank Nordlie, Dr. Jill Peterson, Dr. Hugh Popenoe, Dr. Jerry Stimac, Mr. Wes Wilson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Frederick Gregory, Dr. Steve Dorman, Dr. Michael Perfit

GUEST PRESENT: Ms. Raina Joines

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

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

**I. ACTION ITEMS**

1. The minutes of the March 22, 2000, Graduate Council meeting were approved as written.
2. Ms. Raina Joines and Mr. Wes Wilson from the Graduate Student Council presented a Graduate Student Bill of Rights for endorsement by the Graduate Council. A previous draft version from the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) was introduced at the February 18, 1999 meeting. However, the Council tabled it until a final version was published and adapted for the University of Florida. The Graduate Student Council revised the document in consultation with Graduate Assistants United to reflect the needs of graduate students and graduate student assistants.

The Graduate Council functions as a program and policy committee. Therefore, some Council members were reluctant to endorse any portion pertaining to graduate student assistants since that falls outside programmatic review. Also, without a written recommendation by Graduate Assistants United (GAU), the organization's role was unclear in the preparation of this document. Further, the Council questioned the legal accountability that might be contained in some of the vague language and embodied in a Council endorsement.

A motion was made to split the document into two parts and resubmit "Part I. Graduate Students" to the Graduate Council with more clearly written language. *The motion was passed with 9 in favor and 1 opposed.*

3. The nominating committee presented a slate of nominees for the Graduate Council, 2000-2003. The four council members whose terms end this year are from history, geology, soil and water science, and zoology. The following faculty have agreed to be nominated for the 3-year term beginning August 2000:

Michael Binford	Associate Professor	Geography
Mary Brownell	Associate Professor	Special Education
Lauren Chapman	Associate Professor	Zoology
Robert Sorkin	Professor	Psychology
Mickie Swisher	Associate Professor	Geography
Henri Van Rinsvelt	Professor	Physics

*The slate of nominees was approved unanimously by the Council. Voting will be conducted electronically for the first time via the Web. Graduate Faculty without e-mail addresses or upon request will receive a paper ballot.*

### **III. INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. The Graduate School administratively approved a combination bachelor's/master's degree program in religion, effective Fall 2000.
2. The Graduate School administratively approved a modification to the joint JD/MA degree program in business administration with a concentration in real estate and urban analysis, effective retroactively to September 18, 1997.
3. The Graduate School administrative approved a modification to the joint J.D./M.A. program in sociology, allowing for a maximum of 12 credits of law courses to be counted toward the thesis or nonthesis master's degree, effective Spring 2000.

### **IV. DISCUSSION ITEM**

1. The Council was asked by a member to comment on possible elimination of the final examination requirement for some nonthesis master's degrees. Most Council members believed that it would not be acceptable in their departments and colleges.

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