

MINUTES  
GRADUATE COUNCIL  
November 16, 2000  
1:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Winfred Phillips, Chair, Dr. Gijs Bosman, Dr. Lauren Chapman, Dr. Jill Peterson, Dr. Jerry Stimac, Dr. Henri Van Rinsvelt, Ms. Raina Joines

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Carol Reed Ash, Dr. Dawn Bowers, Dr. William Calin, Dr. Pushpa Kalra, Dr. Bob Kennedy, Dr. Stephen Pearton

GUESTS PRESENT: Mr. Erik Gordon, Mr. John Laibson, Mr. Steve Pritz, Dr. Kathleen Shiverick, Dr. Ian Tebbett

STAFF PRESENT: Ms. Linda Vivian, Ms. Gann Enholm, Mr. Gary Hartge, Ms. Helen Martin, Ms. Lorna Dishman

Dr. Winfred Phillips, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

**I. ACTION ITEMS**

1. The minutes of the October 19, 2000, Graduate Council meeting were unanimously approved, with a capitalization correction and a text change in the second action item from “eradicate disease and insects” to “manage pests.”
2. Dr. Kathleen Shiverick from the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics presented a proposal for a new designation of the toxicology concentration in the College of Medicine. The concentration was originally approved to be offered through the Departments of Pharmacology and Pathology. In 1997, the graduate programs in the College of Medicine Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program (IDP) were restructured and these two departments were joined to become the Physiology and Pharmacology Advanced Concentration. The academic requirements for the concentration have not changed, but the administrative restructuring requires a new designation on the transcript from “PhD in Medical Sciences-Pharmacology with a concentration in Toxicology” to “PhD in Medical Sciences-Physiology and Pharmacology with a concentration in Toxicology.” *The Council unanimously approved the proposal. Effective Fall 2000.*
3. Dr. Ian Tebbett from the Department of Veterinary Medical Sciences presented a proposal for a nonthesis option to the existing M.S. degree in Veterinary Medical Sciences and a graduate certificate in forensic toxicology. The nonthesis degree will be considered a terminal degree, focused on making graduates competitive for employment that is not research related. It is an opportunity to offer an off-book distance education program, primarily Web-based, along with regular campus

programs for concentrations in forensic toxicology and infectious diseases. Most of the distance learning students will be working professionals who have extensive laboratory experience, but need the academic component provided by the course work. They have the option to participate in supervised research as an elective. These students must have a bachelor's degree in a related field, such as chemistry or the biological sciences.

The certificate in forensic toxicology is currently being awarded by the College of Veterinary Medicine for MS degree students. To enhance the acceptance of the certificate, and therefore its value to students, the College is requesting that it be awarded by the Graduate School. The College will continue to award the certificate for students who are not seeking a degree, but the certificate only. *The Council unanimously approved the proposal. Effective Fall 2000.*

4. Mr. Erik Gordon and Mr. John Laibson from the MBA program presented a proposal for a new Internet MBA one-year program. The program will be similar to the existing two-year program and is intended for students with a recently acquired undergraduate degree in business. The lockstep program of 32 credits offers a traditional MBA curriculum in a technological format, using synchronous and asynchronous communication. Students also participate in group projects, discussion groups, and come to campus once each term for final course examinations and an introduction to the next course module. A capstone course is required in lieu of a comprehensive final examination. *The Council unanimously approved the proposal. Effective Spring 2001.*

## **II. DISCUSSION ITEM**

The Council discussed the comprehensive final examination requirement for the master's nonthesis degree option. The question was raised about whether a department should have the discretion to eliminate this requirement, since some peer institutions in that discipline do not require it and the department considers it an unnecessary hurdle. Currently the comprehensive final examination is mandatory for all disciplines at the University of Florida, so that any deviation in this requirement would set a precedent for all master's nonthesis degrees. Therefore, Dr. Phillips stated the need to establish a philosophy if the issue is to be considered: 1. How the quality of the degree would be impacted by elimination of the requirement, and 2. What criterion would constitute a special exception; otherwise, the practice would have to be considered as an option for all nonthesis degrees.

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