MINUTES
GRADUATE COUNCIL
May 2, 2001
2:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:  Dr. Winfred Phillips, Chair, Dr. Carol Reed Ash, Dr. Gijs Bosman, Dr. Lauren Chapman, Ms. Raina Joines, Dr. Pushpa Kalra

MEMBERS ABSENT:  Dr. Dawn Bowers, Dr. William Calin, Dr. Bob Kennedy, Dr. Stephen Pearton, Dr. Jill Peterson, Dr. Jerry Stimac, Dr. Henri Van Rinsvelt

GUESTS PRESENT:  Dr. Denise Atteberry, Dr. Sheldon Isenberg, Ms. Jaimee Perez, Dr. Anna Peterson, Dr. Gerhard Ritter, Ms. Barbara Talmadge, Dr. Joseph Wilson, Dr. Richard Yost

STAFF PRESENT:  Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt, Ms. Linda Vivian, Ms. Helen Martin

The April meeting was rescheduled for a later date due to scheduling conflicts.

Dr. Winfred Phillips, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

I. ACTION ITEMS

1. The minutes of the March 15, 2001 Graduate Council meeting were unanimously approved as written.

2. Dr. Sheldon Isenberg and Dr. Anna Peterson from the Department of Religion and Dr. Richard Yost from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences presented a proposal for a new Ph.D. degree program in religion. The program is intended to prepare students for academic careers by providing a broad intellectual foundation and the specialized training needed to conduct scholarly research and develop excellence in teaching for prospective college and university professors. In addition to completing core courses, students are required to select one of the three specializations in religion and ecology, religion in Asia, and religion in the Americas.

Traditionally, this degree program has been offered in private institutions, church-associated institutions, or institutions with affiliated seminaries. Peer institutions that offer a Ph.D. in religion include the University of North Carolina, University of California-Berkeley, and University of Chicago. Florida State University is the only institution within the state to offer this degree. It is the shared view of faculty members at UF and FSU, that the overlap is minimal. The intent is not to duplicate other existing programs but to establish new fields of research within the discipline. The department
anticipates about fifteen new students per year. The Council unanimously approved the proposal.

3. Dr. Gerhard Ritter and Dr. Joseph Wilson from the Department of Computer and Information Sciences and Engineering, and on behalf of the School of Art and Art History, presented proposals for a new Master of Science in digital arts and sciences degree program in the College of Engineering and a Master of Arts in digital arts and sciences in the College of Fine Arts. It is currently being offered as a concentration in the CISE and Art degrees. This program is intended for those artists and computer scientists wishing to combine expertise in the arts, sciences, and engineering to work in a creative digital world environment. It is an integral part of the Florida Digital World’s Institute (FDWI) and a contributor to State of Florida’s economic development initiative. The Council unanimously approved the proposal.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.