

MINUTES
GRADUATE COUNCIL
September 20, 2001
1:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Winfred Phillips, Chair, Dr. Gijs Bosman, Dr. Dawn Bowers, Dr. Lauren Chapman, Dr. Richard Condit, Dr. Kirk Hatfield, Dr. Marjorie Hoy, Dr. James Jones, Ms. Jaimee Perez, Dr. Jill Peterson, Dr. Henri Van Rinsvelt

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. James Algina, Dr. William Calin, Dr. Bob Kennedy, Dr. Stephen Pearton

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. David Brown, Dr. Virginia Mauer, Ms. Mindy Kraft, Mr. Steve Pritz

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt, Ms. Linda Vivian, Ms. Gann Enholm, Mr. Gary Hartge, Ms. Helen Martin

Dr. Winfred M. Phillips, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. and introduced new and returning members along with the Graduate School staff and permanent guests.

I. ACTION ITEMS

1. The minutes of the May 17, 2001, Graduate Council meeting were approved with corrections to the attendance and adjournment time.
2. Dr. Virginia Mauer and Ms. Mindy Kraft from the Department of Management presented a proposal to revise the existing program for the MS degree in business administration with a concentration in management. This 32-credit program is designed as an alternative for students without an undergraduate degree in business administration or requisite work experience that would qualify them for admission into the MBA program. Interest in the MS in business administration-management comes primarily from students in the sciences, social sciences, and engineering who seek a business component to their academic qualifications. Additionally, about 10% of the students in this program are also jointly enrolled in other graduate or professional degree programs.

The current program is offered in a lockstep 8-week modular sequence, with little flexibility in courses. The department is requesting a modification to the existing program to allow three management electives to replace three required courses. The purpose of the change is to allow students the opportunity to take courses in a particular management area of interest. Students are primarily interested in the areas of management technology, human resources, and the entrepreneurial process. Council members questioned how industry and MBA viewed this program since there could be potential confusion with the MS degree. Dr. Mauer assured the Council that the degree is well received in industry and accepted by MBA since many of the same faculty teach in both degree programs. *The Council approved the proposal with one abstention. Effective Fall 2001.*

3. Dr. David Brown from the Department of Finance, Insurance and Real Estate presented a revised proposal, requested by the Council at their May 17, 2001, meeting, to address issues regarding the MS degree and the comprehensive final examination. The proposal seeks to provide a one-year format for the MS nonthesis option in business administration with a concentration in finance. The proposed program would be offered in a lockstep modular format, similar to other master's degree programs in the College of Business Administration. The existing 32-credit program does not require specific courses and is currently offered in the traditional 16-week semester format. Students in this program come primarily from the University of Florida undergraduate program with an average 630 GMAT score. Council members noted with unease that the department was not actively recruiting from other institutions to enhance the mix of students.

The MS degree is offered almost exclusively, rather than the MA degree, because of peer institution comparability and the quantitative nature of the program. It tends to be a terminal degree and half of the curriculum has a substantial case study emphasis.

Council members expressed serious concern that there was no specific plan for the comprehensive final examination. The purpose of the written test is to examine a student's ability to integrate knowledge from the courses to solve situations that could be encountered professionally. The examination should have a clear design with a defined satisfactory grade, along with circumstances and rules for repeating a failed examination.

The Council approved the proposal unanimously contingent upon the department providing a written detailed plan for the comprehensive final examination to the Graduate School and having it readily available in the department for students.

III. INFORMATION ITEM

The joint JD/Master of Public Health program was administratively approved by the Graduate School and will be forwarded to the University Curriculum Committee as an information item.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEM

Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt from the Graduate School recommended a modification to the program proposal preliminary review process. He requested that a few members of the Graduate Council, selected on a rotating basis, augment the Graduate School staff policy review of program proposals by providing a faculty review of the academic content. The staff would provide their comments to the subcommittee to use in their own proposal review and in consultation with the department or college. The members would coordinate with the Graduate School when the proposal is ready to be placed on the Graduate Council agenda for action. *The Council agreed to the recommendation. Effective for all program proposals submitted in Fall 2001 and thereafter.*

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