

MINUTES
GRADUATE COUNCIL
November 15, 2001
1:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt, Acting Chair, Dr. Gijs Bosman, Dr. Dawn Bowers, Dr. Lauren Chapman, Dr. Richard Condit, Dr. Kirk Hatfield, Dr. James Jones, Dr. Bob Kennedy, Ms. Jaimee Perez

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Winfred Phillips, Chair, Dr. James Algina, Dr. William Calin, Dr. Marjorie Hoy, Dr. Stephen Pearton, Dr. Jill Peterson, Dr. Henri Van Rinsvelt

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. Bertha Cato, Dr. Fleming, Dr. Steven Humphrey, Dr. Niccie McKay, Dr. Kay Walker, Mr. Steve Pritz

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

Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

I. ACTION ITEMS

1. The minutes of the October 18, 2001, Graduate Council meeting were approved as written.
2. Dr. Bertha Cato and Dr. Dave Fleming from the Department of Exercise and Sport Sciences presented a proposal for new concentrations for the MESS thesis and MESS nonthesis degrees. The content areas have been offered as informal specializations and the department requested that they now be formal concentrations. Five of these focus areas are already offered as concentrations for the PhD degree. The new concentrations would be athletic training/sports medicine, exercise physiology, exercise and sport pedagogy, exercise physiology, special physical education/exercise therapy, and sport management. *The Council approved the proposal unanimously, effective Fall 2001.*
3. Dr. Kay Walker from the Department of Occupational Therapy presented a proposal for a distance learning program for the existing Master of Health Science degree. This format is intended for working professionals who would continue to work while earning the MHS degree. In 2006, the master's degree will be the entry-level degree for employment. The department anticipates that 30 students will enroll in the first year, with 20 students each year thereafter. The 36-credit program, consisting of six 6-credit courses, is designed so that students will not need to come to the UF campus. Each cohort enrolls in one course per semester in lockstep succession. As each new cohort begins, another course is added to the schedule until all six courses are being taught simultaneously to different cohorts.

Council members expressed concern about the different curriculum for on-campus and distance learning students earning the same MHS degree. Questions were raised regarding the quality of the course delivery and the design and supervision of examinations. The primary issue raised was whether the distance learning students would receive the same quality program as their on-campus counterparts. Currently, one course is ready for

electronic implementation. The department intends to hire adjunct faculty to teach the distance learning program, which would allow the department to support both delivery formats.

The Council tabled the motion with the request that the department provide the following information for their consideration at the next meeting:

- *Departmental/college resources that are available to sustain the program*
- *System for quality control to ensure equity with the on-campus program*
- *Plan for proctoring examinations*
- *Demonstration of the first course presentation*

The Council also requested that Dr. Bill Riffie, Associate Provost for Distance, Continuing and Executive Education, be invited to discuss the concept of two different course requirements for distance learning and on-campus students within the same degree program.

4. Dr. Steven Humphrey from the College of Natural Resources and Environment presented a proposal for concentrations in the master's and PhD degree programs in interdisciplinary ecology. When the degree programs were originally approved, focus areas were designated inappropriately as minors. According to the definition of a minor, the focus area would need to be outside of the participating departments. Since the intent is for students to focus in one of the participating departments, it is accurate to have concentrations, which are defined as subprograms within a graduate major. *The Council approved the proposal unanimously, effective Fall 2001.*
5. Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt from the Graduate School requested that the Council determine the number of members needed for a quorum. *The consensus of the Council is that seven voting members must be present to act on agenda items.*
6. Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt from the Graduate School presented revisions to the UF Constitution to be forwarded to the Senate Constitutional Revision Committee for consideration. The additions in Section 5 are: Article A the phrase, "Approval of new degree programs and concentrations;" Article C the phrase, " a representative from the Graduate Coordinators' Advisory Council;" and "The Graduate Coordinators' Advisory Council representative shall be a current member of that body, elected by its membership to a one-year term on the Graduate Council and eligible for re-election for a second term." *The Council approved the revisions unanimously.*

II. INFORMATION ITEM

The joint MS degree program in electrical engineering and business administration-management was administratively approved by the Graduate School and will be forwarded to the University Curriculum Committee as an information item.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.