

MINUTES  
GRADUATE COUNCIL  
October 17, 2002  
1:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt, Acting Chair, Dr. Jeffrey Adler, Dr. James Algina, Dr. Russell Bauer, Dr. Richard Condit, Mr. Jason Gainous, Dr. Christiana Leonard, Dr. Jose Principe, Dr. Richard Romano

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Winfred Phillips, Chair, Dr. William Calin, Dr. Lauren Chapman, Dr. Marjorie Hoy, Dr. James Jones, Dr. Stephen Pearton, Dr. Henri Van Rinsvelt

GUESTS PRESENT: Mr. Steve Pritz, Mr. Bill Radunovich, Mr. Chris Sessums

STAFF PRESENT: Ms. Linda Vivian, 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 September 18, 2002, Graduate Council meeting were approved unanimously.

## II. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt from the Graduate School led a discussion regarding supervisory committee membership. It is difficult for interdisciplinary doctoral programs to find faculty to serve as external members on supervisory committees given that so many faculty hold graduate faculty appointments in these programs as well as an appointment in the “home” department. Current Graduate Council policy requires the external member to be “drawn from a different educational discipline.”

The Council discussed the German model whereby the external member was from inside the discipline but from another university. This evolved in the United States and at the University of Florida to have the external member from inside the university but outside the discipline. The primary responsibility, as defined in the Graduate Council Policy Manual, is for the external member to represent the interests of the Graduate School and the University of Florida, and to bring any conflicts to the attention of the appropriate governing body.

The issues discussed included the fundamental purpose for appointing an external member and eligibility for service in this capacity. The consensus of the Council was that the external member provides a different perspective on the proceedings and should be retained as a requirement for committee structure. However, the definition of “external” is less clear. Many Council members believed that the external member could be defined as a graduate faculty member who is not budgeted or does not hold tenure (tenure accruing) in the department offering the degree. In the case of the medical sciences-interdisciplinary program (IDP), the external member is outside

the concentration since appointments are not organized by department. The Council requested that the Graduate School draft a proposal for consideration at a future meeting.

2. Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt from the Graduate School led a discussion regarding combined bachelor's/master's and joint graduate/professional degree programs. Currently, both programs require a formal proposal process with programs listed in the front section of the Graduate Catalog. Several years ago, the Graduate Council approved a template and delegated the approval authority to the Graduate School. It is time intensive to get these programs on the books and to create and maintain infrastructure to support them. In an effort to streamline the process, the Graduate School staff suggested that departments and colleges could institute these programs without submitting a formal proposal if they fall within the template parameters and list their availability in the Fields of Instruction portion of the Graduate Catalog.

Council members discussed the admissions requirement to the combined program for a 3.2 GPA and 1100 GRE (combined V+Q) and departmental procedures for admission. The Graduate School staff explained that because the combined program saves the student a semester in total enrollment, the Council (1999) prescribed higher admission standards.

The Graduate School staff reported that enrollment in joint programs is minimum and that programs are often created for only one student, without additional enrollment. Allowing the professional and graduate programs to work out a program of study for individual students using template parameters would simplify the infrastructure. The Council discussed the type of students interested in the joint program and the graduation rate. The Graduate School was tasked with drafting a proposal that would address the approval process and clarify the eligibility requirements, and admissions procedures for a future Council meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.