

MINUTES
GRADUATE COUNCIL
September 18, 2003
1:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Winfred Phillips, Chair, Dr. James Algina, Dr. Russell Bauer, Dr. Ann Horgas, Dr. Marjorie Hoy, Dr. James Jones, Dr. Christiana Leonard, Dr. Richard Romano, Mr. Bill Radunovich, Dr. David Tanner

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Jeffrey Adler, Dr. Richard Condit, Dr. Jose Principe

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. Bruce Carroll, Dr. Bertha Cato, Mr. Peter Dobbins, Dr. Stephen Humphrey, Mr. Barclay Key, Dr. Stephen Thebaut, Dr. Jill Varnes, Dr. Paul Zwick

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

Dr. Winfred Phillips, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. New Council members were welcomed and all in attendance were introduced. Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt distributed the Graduate Catalog now available on CD.

I. ACTION ITEMS

1. The minutes of the April 17, 2003, Graduate Council meeting were approved unanimously.
2. Dr. Paul Zwick from the Department of Urban and Regional Planning presented a proposal to increase the maximum allowance of shared credits in concurrent degree programs for those programs with at least 48 credits. Students concurrently enrolled in two master's programs may share 9 credits. The current policy is based on enrollment in two 30-36 credit degree programs. The College of Design, Construction, and Planning has several programs requiring 48-52 credits. The proposal is requesting that students concurrently enrolled in two 48-52 credit master's programs be able to share 16 credits. Council members noted that 15 credits would retain the same proportion and modified the motion. *The Council approved the modified proposal unanimously, effective Spring 2004.*
3. Dr. Jill Varnes, representing the provost, presented a proposal for an expedited review process for existing concentrations in master's programs to become majors. The proposal packet would be streamlined, but would maintain the current approval process. This is intended for those concentrations that have reached a level of maturity and have become de facto majors. The academic requirements would not change and the initial implementation as a major would not require additional resources. Degree proposals would focus on documenting past enrollment and degrees awarded rather than relying on projections. Council members expressed concern about the ease of adding majors without considering the status of programs that are already being offered. Additionally, once a concentration is codified as a major, it is less adaptable to trends and too specific for many employers. A request was made to discuss program review in a future meeting. *The Council approved the*

proposal unanimously with a request that Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt consult with Dr. Varnes to add an item to the form for departments to address any reallocation of resources to accommodate the new major.

4. Dr. Bruce Carroll from the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering presented a proposal to sunset the Master of Engineering, M.S. and Engineer degrees in engineering science, and the Master of Engineering, M.S., Engineer, and Ph.D. degrees in engineering mechanics. These majors became essentially redundant when the two departments merged. *The Council commended the department for this action and approved the proposal unanimously, effective Fall 2004.*
5. Dr. Stephen Humphrey from the School of Natural Resources and Environment presented a proposal to add a concentration in geographical information systems to the interdisciplinary ecology program. *The Council approved the proposal unanimously, effective Fall 2003.*
6. Dr. Stephen Thebaut from the Department of Computer and Information Sciences and Engineering presented a proposal for Peter J. Dobbins, a lecturer in the department, to pursue a PhD in CISE. The department hired Mr. Dobbins, a former master's student in the department, as a faculty member so that he could receive benefits, enhance his curriculum vitae, and be assigned greater responsibilities. Council members expressed concern that his supervisory committee could not objectively evaluate his PhD program. It would create role confusion between his status as a graduate student and as a faculty member, creating a climate for possible boundary transgressions. Finally, it would create a precedent for faculty in other programs. *The Council denied the proposal with a recommendation that Mr. Dobbins be appointed as a teaching assistant.*

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