

MINUTES
GRADUATE COUNCIL
January 15, 2004
1:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Jeffrey Adler; Dr. Russell Bauer; Dr. Richard Condit;
Dr. Thomas Crisman; Dr. Robert Holt; Dr. Ann Horgas-
Marsiske; Dr. James Jones; Dr. Jose Principe; Mr. Bill
Radunovich; Dr. Richard Romano; Dr. David Tanner

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Winfred Phillips, Chair; Dr. James Algina; Dr. Marjorie
Hoy; Dr. Christiana Leonard

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. Tim Anderson; Dr. Nabih Asal; Dr. Paul Borson; Mr.
Rick Bryant; Dr. Paul Duncan; Dr. Robert Frank; Dr.
Stephanie Hanson; Dr. Steve Roberts; Dr. Ronald
Rozensky; Dr. Betsey Shenkman; Ms. Kristen Smith; Dr.
Krista Vandenborne; Dr. Linda Young

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

Dr. Winfred Phillips, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

I. ACTION ITEMS

1. The minutes of the December 18, 2003, Graduate Council meeting were approved unanimously.
2. Dr. Andrea Behrman from the Department of Rehabilitation Science presented a petition to allow Claudia Senesac to be a graduate student while lecturing in the Department of Physical Therapy. For the past 18 years, Ms. Senesac has worked for the department as OPS faculty. In March 2003, her status was changed to that of UF part-time lecturer, but her teaching commitment did not change. The department has taken steps to ensure that Ms. Senesac's status as faculty does not interfere with her role as a graduate student. Her teaching responsibilities are strictly limited to the Master of Public Health program. She does not teach in the rehabilitation science program nor supervise any of the RSD students. Further, she would be excused from any portion of faculty meetings or discussion related to the RSD program. *The Council approved the petition unanimously.*
3. Dr. Robert Frank from the College of Public Health and Health Professions presented three proposals for the Master of Public Health degree program.
 - a. Five concentrations were proposed for the MPH degree in biostatistics, epidemiology, environmental health, health management and policy, and social

- and behavioral sciences. The program has hired three new faculty, with two more expected. The program offers courses that are cross-listed in other departments and colleges. Council members noted the duplication of concentrations and courses in epidemiology and biostatistics with the proposal for a master's degree in epidemiology by the College of Medicine. Although the core courses are taught by College of Medicine epidemiology faculty, Dr. Frank explained that the MPH is for working professionals and targets a different cohort than the research-based MS proposal. *The Council approved the proposal unanimously, effective Fall 2004.*
- b. A 36-credit program for working professionals was proposed in addition to the current 48-credit program. Students would be admitted with a previously earned graduate or professional degree and would not expect to transfer credits to the MPH program. Along with 15-credits of core public health course work and 3-6 project credits, students would take 15-18 credits in a concentration complementary to their existing proficiency. Students in the original program take 27 credits beyond the core courses. *The Council approved the proposal unanimously, effective Fall 2004.*
 - c. For the combined program, an increase to 15 credits of dual-counted graduate credits was requested from the standard 12 credits. Admission requirements remain at 3.2 GPA and 1100 GRE. The increase in credits would cover all core courses required for the MPH degree. If all core courses are not completed during the undergraduate portion of the combined program, then the student would apply to graduate school independently and not participate in the combined program. *The Council approved the proposal unanimously, effective Fall 2004.*
4. Dr. Nabih Asal and Dr. Elizabeth Shenkman from the College of Medicine presented a proposal to offer a 36-credit Master of Science thesis degree in epidemiology with concentrations in biostatistics and health policy. The purpose of the program is to produce graduates with an emphasis on research methodology in health and disease among urban and rural populations, the elderly, children and minorities in Florida and nationally. The program consists of courses taught by epidemiology faculty in the College of Medicine with concentration courses taught in collaboration with faculty in the colleges of Agricultural and Life Sciences and Liberal Arts and Sciences. Although faculty will continue to contribute to provide training with a general public health focus through the Master of Public Health degree program, the MS thesis degree will provide a strong base for students wanting to pursue PhD programs in epidemiology and health policy. *The Council approved the proposal unanimously, effective Fall 2004.*
 5. Dr. Tim Anderson from the College of Engineering presented a proposal for a combined BS/PhD program in electrical and computer engineering. This variation of the BS/MS program would allow the department to recruit students directly into the PhD program. Eligible students would have senior status, 3.7 GPA, GRE combined score of 1200, analytical writing score of 3.5, three letters of recommendation, and

have completed at least seven core courses and two labs. Although not specified, students would typically take the 12 credits of 5000-level introductory graduate courses as an undergraduate student to dual count in both degrees. The Council members expressed some general concern about the potential for weakening PhD programs with undergraduate participation on a university scale. *The Council approved the proposal unanimously, effective Fall 2004, but declined to establish a template for administrative approval by the Graduate School. The Council directed that any future requests of this kind be placed on a meeting agenda for their consideration.*

6. Kenneth Gerhardt from the Graduate School appointed retiring Council members James Algina, Richard Condit, Marjorie Hoy, James Jones, and Bill Radunovich to serve as the nominating committee for electing new members to serve for the 2004-2007 term. The committee will provide recommendations to the Graduate Council at the March meeting to finalize the slate of nominees.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.