

MINUTES
GRADUATE COUNCIL
February 17, 2005
1:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt, Chair; Dr. Jeffrey Adler, Dr. Kenneth Campbell; Dr. Thomas Crisman; Dr. Ann Horgas-Marsiske; Dr. Christiana Leonard; Dr. Dietmar Siemann; Dr. Colin Summers; Ms. Jensen Montambault

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Russell Bauer; Dr. Robert Holt; Dr. Jose Principe; Dr. Richard Romano; Dr. David Tanner.

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. Michael Friel; Ms. Linda Kirby; Dr. Cammy Abernathy; Mr. Steven Pritz

STAFF PRESENT; Dr. Karen Bradley; Dr. Vivian Correa; Ms. Gann Enholm; Mr. Gary Hartge; Ms. Helen Martin

The meeting began at 1:38 p.m.

Action Items

1. The minutes of the January 20, 2005 Graduate Council meeting were approved as presented.
2. *Proposal for a LL.M. degree in International Taxation.*
Dr. Michael Friel from the College of Law presented this proposal, which builds on the established strength of the current LL.M. in Taxation program. There is a strong demand for the program, particularly from international students. The UF program requires 2 more credits than the chief competitor, at New York University. All current UF graduate school requirements which apply to the LL.M. in Taxation program will apply to this one. The program was approved unanimously. *Effective Fall 2005 if all approvals are secured.*
3. *Proposal from the UF Department of Materials Science and Engineering (MSE) and the University of Roma Tor Vergata (URTV) for a Doctor of Philosophy degree in MSE to be jointly conferred.*
The final proposal was distributed as a handout. In the absence of Dr. Eric Wachsman who submitted the proposal, Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt summarized the program content. This proposal will confer a single PhD degree, in Materials Science and Engineering, jointly from both institutions. There is an existing agreement between the two universities about the concept, which has been approved by both

faculties. The model was initiated by Aerospace Engineering, with subsequent approvals by the UCC and the faculty senate. Dr. Thomas Crisman, one of the Graduate Council subcommittee reviewers, indicated his support based on his activity in cluster programs with European nations. The issues of tuition and fees being paid by one or both institutions is specifically addressed in the Agreement. The proposal was approved unanimously. *Effective date Spring 2005.*

4. *Discussion: Graduate Faculty Status*

Dr. Gerhardt started the discussion by stating that there is great variation across campus about graduate faculty status. Handouts about the current process were distributed. Currently, graduate faculty status is requested from the graduate school by means of an application form which includes the department vote and a copy of the university appointment, a letter from the department chair, and a CV. This is reviewed by the graduate school and acted upon. Requests are occasionally rejected if the candidate shows no evidence of recent scholarship. The Graduate Council sets the minimal standards for Graduate Faculty appointments.

Some issues have been raised about how departments determine whether a faculty member is qualified to supervise PhD students. Several years ago, there was a two tier appointment process. Faculty could be appointed to supervise only master's level students, or supervise both master's and PhD students. This two tier system was eliminated in favor of letting departments decide who was appropriate for the different levels of supervision.

The discussion today included several additional topics. One issue is whether PhD committee supervisory chairs must hold a PhD. A second point was whether graduate faculty status should be limited to those who are tenured or on tenure-accruing lines. A third point of discussion was the value of the faculty vote. Some departments take it quite seriously, others consider it pro forma.

Dr. Gerhardt clarified that Graduate Council does have the UF constitutional authority to set policy about the criteria for appointment to Graduate Faculty. The group felt that this topic needed more discussion. Drs. Thomas Crisman and Ann Horgas-Marsiske volunteered to research current departmental/college practices, and report back to the Council as soon as reasonable.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm