

**MINUTES
GRADUATE COUNCIL
October 20, 2005
1:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt, Chair; Dr. Jane Brockmann; Dr. Kenneth Campbell; Dr. Nicholas Comerford; Dr. Thomas Crisman; Dr. Eileen Fennell; Dr. Abraham Hartzema; Ms. Jensen Montambault; Dr. Panagote Pardalos; Dr. Colin Summers; Dr. David Tanner

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Robert Holt; Dr. Linda Hon; Dr. Ann Horgas-Marsiske; Dr. Dietmar Siemann

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. Cammy Abernathy; Dr. Ira Winarsky; Ms. Corinne Willits

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Karen Bradley, Ms. Gann Enholm; Mr. Gary Hartge; Ms. Anne Taylor

I. ACTION ITEMS

1. **Minutes of the September 15, 2005, Graduate Council Meeting:** Approved with addition of Dr. George Cassella as a guest.
2. **Introduction:** Dr. Nicholas Comerford, Department of Soil and Water Science, representing the Graduate Coordinators Advisory Council.
3. **Special Guest:** Kim Tanzer, president of faculty senate, presented remarks about the “big picture” facing the university to achieve its goal of getting into the Top Ten Public Universities. She touched upon the US News and World Report information, which measures a variety of “success factors”. Many of these factors are a direct result of faculty effort, such as the number of members in the National Academies, etc. A key question the university faces is the role of graduate education to propel UF into the Top Ten. A particular issue that needs resolution is how to achieve the necessary funding to attract faculty, who will produce research and attract top tier graduate students. She also made comments about shared governance, and the active role that faculty are playing in campus decisions.
4. **Proposal for a concentration in Sustainable Architecture under the degrees Master of Architecture and Master of Science in Architectural Studies:** Dr. Ira Winarsky presented the proposal. This concentration reflects a great deal of student interest in sustainability. It is interdisciplinary, and students are required to take courses outside the School of Architecture. All department and faculty have agreed to the courses listed. Independent study courses will be allowed because the two courses listed are in the process of migrating to permanent courses. The courses

available for each semester will be reviewed and posted at the beginning of each semester. The project or thesis **MUST** involve a topic related to sustainability. Proposal was accepted unanimously, effective Spring 2006. The UCC will receive this as an information item.

5. **Proposal to accept the Fundamentals of Engineering examination (FE) in lieu of GREs for admission to non-thesis MS and MS of Engineering degree programs for the College of Engineering.** Dr. Cammy Abernathy, Associate Dean for Academic Programs in the College of Engineering presented the proposal. Several departments (Civil, Environmental, and Mechanical & Aerospace) in the College of Engineering want to use the FE instead of GREs as part of the admission packet, for non-thesis masters students only. This is part of a national trend. Rationale includes the concept that the FE provides a better filter for admissions, because it is part of the requirements for the certification as a professional engineer. Using the FE will make UFs high quality continuing education offerings, including the distance learning program, more available to working professionals.

The council discussed the ramifications of accepting this proposal. The main issue was opening the door to accepting alternative evaluation criteria for other programs. Historically, only the GMAT, LSAT, MCAT and DAT have been approved by the Florida BOE.

The council approved the proposal unanimously. Any department in the College of Engineering may use the FE exam as a substitute for the GRE for no-thesis master's degree applicants pursuing the MS or ME degrees. The proposal will go through several stages of further review, ultimately needing approval from the Florida Board of Governors. Effective date to be determined after all other approvals obtained.

II. DISCUSSION ITEM

6. **Completion of graduate degrees in a timely manner is an important goal of the Graduate School. Registration during the summer semester helps promote this goal. However, some departments are appointing students on faculty lines during the summer, which precludes summer registration.** Not addressed due to time limitations. Will be considered in a future Graduate Council meeting.

III. INFORMATION ITEM

7. **Re-assessing the graduate faculty appointment criteria process.** Not addressed due to time limitations. Will be considered in a future Graduate Council meeting

Meeting adjourned at 3:18 pm.