

MINUTES
GRADUATE COUNCIL
November 17, 2005
1:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt, Chair; Dr. Jane Brockmann, Dr. Kenneth Campbell, Dr. Nicholas Comerford, Dr. Thomas Crisman, Dr. Abraham Hartzema, Dr. Robert Holt, Dr. Ann Horgas, Dr. Panagote Pardalos, Ms. Cynthia Puranik, Dr. David Tanner

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Eileen Fennell, Dr. Linda Hon, Ms. Jensen Montambault, Dr. Dietmar Siemann, Dr. Colin Sumners

GUESTS PRESENT: Mr. Steve Pritz

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

I. ACTION ITEMS

1. **Minutes of October 20 2005, Graduate Council Meeting:** Approved with following corrections in #5: “MS of Engineering” corrected as “ME (Master of Engineering)”; “no-thesis” corrected as “non-thesis”; “pursing” corrected as “pursuing”.

II. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Non-registration in the summer

Dr. Gerhardt led the discussion concerning the appointment of some graduate students as OPS faculty rather than GA/TA/RA in the summer term. This procedure allows departments to have a student teach at a decreased cost to the department, and possibly delays graduation, because the students are not registered that term. There are currently no policies or guidelines to address this. The following points were raised:

- A. Some students sign up for credits during the summer, but the professor is not available to adequately supervise due to 9/12 month appointment issues.
- B. Some departments have made “no funding in summer” an official policy
- C. Some students benefit from having “adjunct instructor” on their CV, which is more prestigious than “teaching assistant” or “teaching associate”

- D. Some TAs are the instructor of record, and are assigned as “adjunct instructor”
- E. Departments have varying solutions to the chronic lack of funding for summer term, and thus prefer to spread their limited dollars among several students via the OPS mechanism than the traditional stipend + tuition waiver

Dr. Gerhardt asked the council to take this information and consider if it is appropriate for Council to set some guidelines at this time, given that central funding formulas are in transition.

2. **PhD Completion Grant Update**

UF is a consortium partner with the University of Georgia and North Carolina State as a participant in the Council of Graduate Schools grant project about PhD Completion Factors. Items under study in the grant also relate to the upcoming NRC study. These fundamental concepts being studied focus on 4 themes:

1. getting the right people to apply,
2. accepting the right people,
3. providing an environment that supports them, and
4. helping with job placement.

Dr. Gerhardt informed the Council that we will be posting information and measures that might impact “quality”, which is a multi-factor concept. Posting some of this information will give students a more thorough picture of our various programs. It would be complementary to individual program websites, which would include more specific information such as faculty research interests, what current students are doing/biosketches, and a more discipline focused web experience. The data elements include:

1. # applications
2. # acceptances
3. # enrolled
4. # degrees awarded
5. median time to degree
6. # currently registered
7. # withdrawals (this would let departments assess the number of dropouts/stopouts)
8. 5 year aggregate data for time to degree
9. 10 years of completion rates

The NRC will be reporting attrition rates and time to degree. Additional discussion centered on funding/lack thereof for graduate students and whether the new capital campaign would help.

Additional information we are gathering to distribute back to departments;

1. AAU survey, which will be aggregated by program for department review

2. A template or other mechanism to show job placement

As the discussion moved to recruitment issues, the Council was reminded that the Graduate School does some central advertising via Peterson's guide, both hard copy and web-based, and we participate in gradschools.com.

3. Graduate Faculty Appointments

Dr. Thomas Crisman presented a summary of the issues that brought this subject to the Council for review. He passed out information about graduate faculty appointments at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; University of Michigan; University of Wisconsin; Indiana University-Bloomington; Duke; University of Georgia; and Kansas State. At UF, the policy lets departments determine who can serve on their graduate faculty, and includes a wide variety of faculty ranks. The process is that the departments nominate faculty, who are then approved by the Graduate Dean. In the past, some departments had non-tenurable faculty chairing committees. This does not provide accountability for the faculty, nor does it allow comparators. Dr. Crisman offered the following suggestions: that graduate faculty must be tenured, or tenure-accruing; faculty must have accountability, therefore should be on permanent funding. This model does not acknowledge other qualities of the individual to serve as a committee member or chair. Some departments/programs do not have "permanent funding", such as those faculty completely supported by grants. After more discussion, the council agreed that this topic was not ready for more definitive action at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm.