

MINUTES
GRADUATE COUNCIL
October 19, 2006
1:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt, Chair; Dr. Kenneth Campbell, Dr. Eileen Fennell, Dr. Bridget Franks, Ms. Cynthia Gomez, Dr. Abraham Hartzema, Dr. Linda Hon, Dr. Jeffrey Needell, Dr. Betty Smocovitis, Dr. Christopher Stanton, Dr. Colin Sumners

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Jane Brockmann, Dr. Nicholas Comerford, Dr. Panagote Pardalos, Dr. Dietmar Siemann

GUESTS PRESENT: Ms. Lynn Frazier, Ms. Becky Hayes, Dr. Dennis Jett, Dr. Amie Kreppel, Ms. Cathy Martyniak, Mr. Steve Pritz

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

I. ACTION ITEMS

1. **Minutes of the September 21, 2006, Graduate Council Meeting** Approved unanimously. Revised to reflect that Dr. Ann Horgas-Marsiske was not present, as she is no longer a member of Graduate Council.
2. **Proposal for Template for a PhD Jointly Conferred with Another Institution.** Dr. Karen Bradley, Associate Director of the Graduate School, and Dr. Ken Gerhardt discussed the need for a template to more efficiently evaluate the proposals for jointly conferred degrees. About 3 years ago, the Graduate Council approved a jointly conferred PhD program for an individual student. This program was with a French institution, and created one degree, with one dissertation acceptable to both institutions. The UF transcript reflects the jointly conferred degree. The proposal was reviewed and approved by Graduate Council and the Faculty senate. The Graduate School is receiving a number of proposals subsequent to this first one. The template is meant to provide a more uniform structure to analyze the key components and make sure that Graduate Council policies are being followed, or modified appropriately. After discussion, it was decided that copies of all jointly conferred degree proposals which have been approved will be presented at a subsequent Graduate Council meeting. Each new proposal will also be reviewed by Graduate Council in order to see the variations and exercise adequate oversight. The use of the template was approved unanimously, effective immediately.
3. **Proposal for elimination of the PhD in International Relations.** Dr. Gerhardt presented this request from the Political Science department. Approved: unanimously. Effective date: Fall 2006
4. **Proposal for a certificate in European Studies.** Dr. Amie Kreppel presented the proposal for a new graduate certificate in European Studies. This proposal is modeled after the certificate in African Studies, and the certificate in Latin American Studies. All

three are Title VI Centers. The Center for European Studies was established 3 years ago. These first three years have focused on undergraduate studies. The center was recently awarded full status, so there is now a need for a formal framework for study at the graduate level. The long term goal is to have a graduate major in European Union Studies. The center provides a home for these interdisciplinary studies. These interdisciplinary courses will have the EUS code. One criterion for the FLAS fellowships is language study. Consistent with current Graduate Council policy, language study will be required at the 3000+ level in order to count towards the graduate programs. Discussion focused on whether students could take all the required course work in one department, or is there a requirement for a discipline mix? Because European Studies is small in number of faculty, mandating a certain number of discipline specific courses would be problematic. That is the reason that the courses which count for the certificate are from many different departments. The issue of identical course numbers but different sections for “special topics” was reviewed. The specific topic will be included in the title of the course. Another point was raised that most other certificates have a survey or introductory course that is interdisciplinary and at least 3 credits. **A friendly amendment was proposed: that student must take at least 2 courses outside their home department.** Other questions raised focused on the particular title for the certificate, and the nature of the courses from the historical perspective. It was explained that the funding agency, the Department of Education Title VI, mandates that the courses be contemporary in time frame. **A friendly amendment was proposed: that the title of the certificate will be “Certificate in Modern European Studies”.** The proposal, with the two friendly amendments, was approved: 8 yes, 0 no, 2 abstain. Effective date: Fall 2007.

II. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. **ProQuest/UMI.** Due to time constraints, the request was made and approved to table this discussion until November’s meeting. Ms. Cathy Martyniak from the Library agreed to return to discuss this topic.
2. **The Bologna Process.** Dr. Dennis Jett, dean of the International Center, spoke about the Bologna Agreement and its potential impact on graduate education in the US, and at UF. The agreement is among XX European Union nations. The process involves common names, common numbers, and common evaluation schemes. Its purpose is to make transfer of students within Europe easier, and more appealing. This will probably make US graduate education less attractive. In Europe, 1/3 of the nations have adopted the guidelines, 1/3 are in process of adoption, and 1/3 have not yet started. Dean Jett suggested that UF review the current website language of mandating a “four year degree or equivalent”, and develop a policy to address how we will deal with increasing number of 3 year degrees. Should it be at the department acceptance level, or an institutional policy? Dr. Gerhardt raised the point that currently, graduate admissions partners with departments to evaluate admissions, and make sure the university meets minimal standards. Many 3 years degrees are not equivalent. It is the interpretation of “equivalent” that is the defining point of the overall discussion. Graduate admissions now performs a quantitative evaluation of international degrees. We need evidence that a certain university meets certain standards, and that is “a bachelor’s degree or equivalent.”

In some European universities, there is a 13 year primary/3 year secondary education. In others, it is a 12 year primary/3 year secondary situation. It is the institutions in the second category that are in question. All US universities are grappling with Bologna Process issues, including admissions units, and accrediting agencies. As part of the Bologna Process, the accreditation process is just now getting organized, and may not be completed by the planned 2010 implementation date. Dr. Gerhardt asked for volunteers to form a subcommittee to work with Lynn Frazier and Dean Jett. Cynthia Gomez, Abraham Hartzema, Bridget Franks and Betty Smokovitis volunteered.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.