

MINUTES
GRADUATE COUNCIL
November 16, 2006
1:35 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt, Chair; Dr. Kenneth Campbell, Dr. Bridget Franks, Ms. Becky Hayes, Dr. Linda Hon, Dr. Jeffrey Needell, Dr. Dietmar Siemann, Dr. Betty Smocovitis, Dr. Christopher Stanton

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Jane Brockmann, Dr. Nicholas Comerford, Dr. Eileen Fennell, Dr. Abraham Hartzema, Dr. Panagote Pardalos, Dr. Colin Sumners

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. Carmen Diana Deere, Ms. Sherry Deist, Dr. Selcuk Erenguc, Ms. Cathy Martyniak, Dr. Andrew McCollough, Mr. Steve Pritz, Dr. Mang Tia

STAFF PRESENT: Prof. Laurence Alexander, Dr. Karen Bradley, Ms. Gann Enholm, Ms. Lydia Rees, Ms. Anne Taylor

I. ACTION ITEMS

1. **Minutes of the October 19, 2006, Graduate Council Meeting:** Motion: approved unanimously.
2. **Proposal to sunset three degrees: 1) the Master of Civil Engineering with a major in Civil Engineering, 2) the Engineer degree with a major in Civil Engineering, and 3) the Engineer degree with a major in Coastal and Oceanographic Engineering.** Dr. Mang Tia presented the department request to sunset the above three degrees. A very small number of students have graduated with these degrees in the past 5 years. There are 2 students currently in the Master program, and they will finish with that degree. Motion: approved unanimously. Effective Spring 2007 pending all other approvals.
3. **Proposal for a new MBA program: a jointly conferred MBA with two international partners.** Dr. Andy McCollough and Dr. Selcuk Erenguc presented this modification of the current MBA program. The new program will combine faculties and coursework with two prestigious international universities: Aston in England, and Vlerick Leuven Gent in Belgium. This program aligns with UF's strategic plan for increased internationalization, and also helps address a world need for higher education in global business practices. The program is a hybrid for distance learning and on-site delivery, and has some unique features due to the sharing of faculty expertise among 3 institutions. Because it is slated to be off-book, Provost Fouke asked for the Graduate Council to review the proposal for the academic merit; she will review for the financial aspects. Motion: approved unanimously. Effective: Spring 2007; forwarded to University Curriculum Committee as an information item.
4. **Proposal to modify the language in the graduate catalog to more accurately reflect the practice of accepting some international bachelor's degrees as equivalent to U.S. bachelor's degrees.** Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt presented the need to update the current language in the graduate

catalog and all related websites to reflect current practice of evaluating international degrees for equivalence to a US degree, regardless of the length of the curriculum. The current language in the section on Admission to the Graduate School, How To Apply (page 20 of the 2006-07 Graduate Catalog) is: "...for students with an earned bachelor's degree only or its international equivalent based on a 4-year curriculum." A motion was made to revise the current language so it will read: "...for students with an earned bachelor's degree only or its international equivalent." and eliminate the phrase "...based on a 4-year curriculum." Motion: approved unanimously. Effective: academic year 2007-08.

5. **Proposal for revisions to the Latin American Studies Certificate requirement.** Dr. Carmen Diana Deere presented this proposal to revise the current LATAM certificate requirements for master's degrees and PhD degrees. The revision was a result of faculty review over the past year about how to have UF's certificate better align with other Title VI Centers in terms of credit requirements (UF needed more credits) and language requirements. The revisions will collapse the MA and PhD certificates into one, for both degrees. The variation will be that students who write a thesis or dissertation will need to earn 12 credits, and non-thesis degree students will need to earn 15 credits. The requirement for minimum level of language proficiency has increased to 3 years of language fluency. The decrease in credit requirements comes from eliminating one 3 credit course. Motion: approved unanimously. Effective: Spring 2007; forwarded to University Curriculum Committee as an information item.

II. DISCUSSION ITEM

6. **ProQuest/UMI.**

Dr. Gerhardt and Ms. Cathy Martyniak from the library explained the current status of UF's requirement that all dissertation students submit their work to ProQuest/UMI for microfilming and subsequent distribution, which includes the annual Dissertation Abstracts published by ProQuest/UMI. Over the past several months, several students and faculty learned that dissertations submitted to ProQuest/UMI had become available for purchase on Amazon.com and notified the Graduate School to ascertain whether this was permissible under the present ProQuest/UMI agreement. The Graduate School and library researched this issue and found it to be permitted.

At the present time, the student signs a ProQuest/UMI agreement which includes a generic clause allowing ProQuest/UMI to sell the dissertation to other vendors for distribution. One of these third party vendors is Amazon.com. With the proliferation of advanced technology and the internet, dissemination to a far larger audience is accomplished far more quickly. This raises concern to both faculty and students about the implications of work being considered as "published" by virtue of sale on a website. The concerns vary considerably by discipline. Some disciplines appreciate the rapid and wide-spread availability afforded by a web presence, and other disciplines are very upset that possible intellectual property may have been improperly revealed at too early a stage.

The longstanding Graduate Council policy has been that part of fulfillment of the PhD degree is the submission of the dissertation to UMI for microfilming, compilation into the UMI Dissertation Abstracts, and sale of copies to those who request one from UMI. The university uses ProQuest/UMI as the medium for dissemination. Currently, when a student submits their dissertation to the UF libraries, there are two forms that the student must sign. The first is the UF ETD Rights and Permission form, which specifies that the student has obtained all necessary copyright permissions, and designates criteria for the release of the dissertation. These criteria include various timelines until full release, which is known as the embargo date. Usually an embargo date is selected because of intellectual property issues, which may require that the work remains unpublished for a certain period of time. Both the student and the chair of the committee sign this form. The second form is the ProQuest/UMI agreement, which gives ProQuest/UMI

non-exclusive rights to publish the work in whatever forms and venues it deems appropriate. Only the student signs the ProQuest/UMI agreement. By virtue of the ProQuest/UMI agreement, the student can receive royalties on the sale of their work, once a minimum royalty dollar value is reached.

The UF form supersedes the ProQuest/UMI form, so that the embargo or secret clauses are followed carefully. The Library has revised its policy, so that it will now keep the dissertation at UF until the embargo date, rather than relying on ProQuest/UMI to carefully manage the embargo date.

Microfilm is still considered the archival medium of choice, rather than other technologies, because it has a life expectancy rating of 500 years.

The Graduate School and the library are actively working with ProQuest/UMI to revise the agreement form so that students better understand the options available for dissemination of their work. Ideally, this would be an opt-in form. The UF ETD Rights and Permission Form is also being modified so students and faculty are more aware of publication options.

The discussion of this situation focused on several areas:

1. Faculty/mentors are not uniformly aware of the ProQuest/UMI publication venues, and therefore may not have been advising the students adequately.
2. All parties need to have a very clear understanding of what is really the student's work vs contribution by the mentor.
3. The dissertation may need to be constructed differently depending on the publication scheme.
4. The mentor is not required to review or co-sign the ProQuest/UMI agreement.
5. What are the legitimate reasons for student and PI to not release dissertation information for a certain length of time (embargo date).
6. There may be a need for longer embargo times than currently suggested, including an infinite embargo option.
7. Who really should control the timeline for release: student or mentor
8. With rapidly changing technology, should UF still require submission to ProQuest/UMI? The UF Library, through the FCLA (Florida Center for Library Automation) publishes the abstract and dissertation when the embargo end date selected by student and mentor has been reached, and does not charge for copies.
9. What are issues related to pirating the work.

Because this topic is multi-faceted and requires more research, a subcommittee was formed to review the issues and make recommendations to Graduate Council for policy development. The members are Dr. Dietmar Siemann, Dr. Christopher Stanton, Ms. Becky Hayes, Dr. Karen Bradley, Ms. Anne Taylor, and Ms. Cathy Martyniak.

The Graduate School will work on updating the Editorial Office webpage to make sure students and faculty are highly encouraged to carefully review the ProQuest/UMI document. If the student wants to change the ProQuest/UMI agreement, they can do so by writing directly on the appropriate paragraph/page.

7. **Change of date for December Graduate Council Meeting:** the December meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 21. The council members present agreed to consider moving it to the preceding week if a quorum can be present. The Graduate School will contact Council members to re-schedule.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm.