

MINUTES
GRADUATE COUNCIL
December 13, 2006
8:30 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt, Chair; Dr. Jane Brockmann,
Dr. Nicholas Comerford, Dr. Bridget Franks, Ms. Cynthia Gomez,
Dr. Linda Hon, Dr. Jeffrey Needell, Dr. Betty Smocovitis,
Dr. Christopher Stanton

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Kenneth Campbell, Dr. Eileen Fennell, Dr. Abraham
Hartzema, Dr. Panagote Pardalos, Dr. Dietmar Siemann,
Dr. Colin Sumners

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. Robert Cousins, Dr. Paul Duncan, Dr. Rafi Haftka,
Dr. Stephanie Hanson, Dr. Harry Sitren, Mr. Steve Pritz

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

I. ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Minutes of the November 16, 2006, Graduate Council Meeting.** The following change will be made: the sunset date for the selected degrees in Civil and Coastal Engineering is Spring 2007. Approved unanimously. The October minutes will be so changed and posted.
2. **Proposal for a jointly conferred PhD in Mechanical Engineering between UF and Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Mines de St Etienne.** Dr. Raphael Haftka presented the proposal for a specific student. Extensive discussion focused on what value is added for the student (or any student) to participate in the joint degree. In this case, the intellectual partnership combines a more mathematical model (French) with applications (UF). The international background is highly valued in engineering. Students want this international background, and thus having partnerships helps with recruiting excellent students. The faculty who jointly direct the student benefit from increased professional contact during the several years. The request was made that future proposals include more detail about the specific value added components. Approved unanimously. Effective date: when the student is admitted.
3. **Proposal to accept the GMAT as a substitute for the GRE for the Master of Health Administration Program.** Dr. Stephanie Hanson and Dr. Paul Duncan presented this item. Currently, the GMAT is used for admission to the Executive MHA program. This occurred when the program was coupled with the MBA; and retained when the programs were de-coupled. The current market for MHA students in top programs uses GMAT, and UF is losing top students because they don't want to take the GRE also. It is expected that the GMAT will be used as an admission criteria infrequently. The GMAT is very similar to the GRE, and includes both verbal and quantitative sections. The quantitative portion more closely aligns with the content of the MHA financial and accounting courses. This standardized test is recognized by Florida Board of

Governors as an appropriate substitute for the GRE. Approved unanimously. Effective date: Fall 2007 .

4. **Proposal for a PhD in Nutritional Sciences.** Dr. Robert Cousins and Dr. Harry Sitren presented this item. In the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the PhD in Food Science and Human Nutrition is one degree with 2 distinct concentrations: Food Science and Nutritional Sciences. The request to create this separate degree was re-activated by Dr. Jimmy Cheek, to follow the Animal Molecular and Cell Biology program. Having this specific degree major will increase the pool of applicants many are lost to Tufts and Cornell, and will make the faculty much more competitive for training grants in the discipline. Discussion included the fact that the proposal seems limited because there is not much involvement with CLAS. The response was that there are a number of Psychology faculty involved, and cross campus interest has come through the multidisciplinary seminar series. The proposal in its present form is still in the early stages, and will be extended to other areas on campus over time. The question about the Food Science concentration for the degree was raised. That concentration will be brought to Graduate Council in the future. The concentration in Nutritional Science will be sunset if the proposal receives all the necessary approvals. Approved unanimously. Effective date Fall 2008, pending all approvals. This will now be sent to the Faculty Senate.

II. DISCUSSION ITEM

1. **Review existing graduate certificates.** Prior discussion with Council resulted in a request for additional information about graduate certificates. The enclosure represents all the current Graduate Council approved certificate programs. Each certificate is tied to one or more graduate degree programs. Unlike Graduate Council approved concentrations, certificate remarks do not appear on the transcript. The Graduate School does not monitor college certificate programs. The oversight and monitoring is done by a college or governing board, which also generates the certificate. The two certificates in Political Science with the large credit requirements are essentially specialized master's degrees. These are internal only to the specific program, and are not interdisciplinary. It was noted that it would take a tremendous amount of effort to determine which certificates require a 2-3 credit course that provides a central core for intellectual rigor. The Graduate School staff will prepare future agenda items related to a review of the Certificates in Post-Graduate Studies, Women in Development, and Tropical Agriculture.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.