

**MINUTES**  
**GRADUATE COUNCIL**  
**January 18, 2007**  
**1:30 P.M.**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Nicholas Comerford, Dr. Bridget Franks,  
Dr. Panagote Pardalos, Dr. Dietmar Siemann,

GUESTS PRESENT: Ms. Sherry Deist; Dr. Selcuk Erenguc, Dr. David Hackett,  
Ms. Mary Ann Hagler

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

**I. ACTION ITEMS**

1. **Minutes of the December 13, 2006, Graduate Council Meeting.** Approved unanimously.
2. **Proposal to add a Non-Thesis Option to the Master of Arts degree in Religion.**  
Dr. David Hackett presented the proposal. Nationally, it is rare for students to be admitted directly to PhD programs in religion. A non-thesis option is important for those students who require a broader background before they enter a PhD program. It was noted that history has a non-thesis option. A non-thesis paper, based on primary sources and of a quality that is nearly publishable, is required. Successful completion of this assignment lets faculty determine if the student has the ability to undertake doctoral work. Approved: unanimously. Effective date: Fall 2007.
3. **Proposal to modify the jointly conferred MBA with two international partners.**  
The proposal for a jointly conferred MBA with three partners (UF, Aston Business School, and Vlerick Leuven Gent Management School) was approved at the November 16, 2006 Graduate Council meeting. However, after November 16, Aston notified UF that they cannot participate in jointly conferred degrees. Participation requires changes at the English government level. The revised proposal presented by Dr. Selcuk Erenguc was for a jointly conferred degree between UF and one international partner, Vlerick Leuven Gent Management School. The curriculum and travel scheme will remain the same, and all three universities will participate. For UF and Vlerick students, Aston will provide a document that says they participated in Aston coursework. Aston students will receive the MBA degree from Aston. Dr. Gerhardt reminded the Council that the Provost is still evaluating the funding model. Approved: unanimously. Start date: Spring 2007 after Provost review.

## **II. INFORMATION ITEM**

- 1. Appoint Nominating Committee for Graduate Council.** In the past, the Nominating Committee consisted of those retiring Council members. The criteria for Council nomination include graduate faculty status at the associate professor or professor level. The nomination slate should try to get widespread participation to assure that a variety of perspectives are represented. The committee will receive a list of those who have previously served on Council. The suggestion was made to ask the graduate faculty at large to recommend nominees. It was noted that because of shared governance, the composition and appointment process to Graduate Council may change. The new committee will be: Dr. Kenneth Campbell, Dr. Nicholas Comerford, Ms. Cynthia Gomez, Dr. Linda Hon, Dr. Dietmar Siemann, and Dr. Colin Sumners.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 P.M.