

**MINUTES
GRADUATE COUNCIL
September 20, 2007
1:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Henry Frierson, Chair; Dr. Jane Brockmann, Dr. Joseph Delfino, Dr. Richard Dickinson, Dr. Eileen Fennell, Dr. Bridget Franks, Dr. Abraham Hartzema, Ms. Becky Hayes-Smith, Dr. Jeffrey Needell, Dr. Panagote Pardalos, Dr. Peggy Wallace, Dr. Kim Walsh-Childers

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Sharleen Simpson, Dr. Betty Smocovitis, Dr. Christopher Stanton

GUESTS PRESENT: Ms. Kara Cupoli (College of Business Administration), Dr. Kelli Brown (College of Health and Human Performance), Mr. Steve Pritz (Office of the Registrar), Dr. Mary Peoples-Sheps (College of Public Health and Health Professions), Ms. Chandra Mitchell (Office of Admissions)

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt, Ms. Pat Bartlett, Dr. Karen Bradley, Ms. Gann Enholm

I. ACTION ITEMS

1. **Minutes of the May 17, 2007, Graduate Council Meeting.** Approved unanimously.
2. **Proposal for a joint degree program culminating in a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree, awarded by the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM), and a Master of Public Health degree, awarded by the College of Public Health and Health Professions (PHHP).** Dr. Mary Peoples-Sheps explained that the current proposal was a modification of one administratively approved Spring 2007. At that time, the proposal called for each college to accept 12 credits from the other college. When establishing the implementation plan, VM had some concerns about the financial implications. Both colleges agreed that PHHP will accept 12 credits from VM, and VM will accept 6 credits from PHHP. A revised document will be submitted to the Graduate School for the permanent program file to indicate that the committee composition “will” (rather than “should”) be comprised of 2 members, one from each college. This is allowable because the MPH is a non-thesis degree, and the DVM is a professional degree. Motion: approved unanimously. Effective date: Fall 2007.
3. **Proposal to sunset the following MBA concentrations: Arts Administration, Business Strategy and Public Policy, Electronic Commerce and Health and Hospital Administration.** Ms. Kara Cupoli explained that the proposal was prepared because demand for each concentration has decreased significantly and these concentrations have been inactive for a long time. The faculty and their interests have also changed, as has the curriculum. The sunsetting process will officially remove these options from the official university degree list. The Electronic Commerce concentration was very active for only a couple of years, during the dot.com creation era. The Health and Hospital Administration concentration was created to accommodate the previous combined MBA-MHA degree. PHHP currently

offers the Master of Health Administration degree, and business faculty participate as needed. Motion: approved unanimously. Effective date: Fall 2007 subsequent to all other approvals.

- 4. Proposal to sunset the Master of Science, major in Business Administration, concentration – Entrepreneurship.** This concentration is being sunsetted since there is a major in entrepreneurship that was recently approved. Motion: approved unanimously. Effective date: Fall 2007 pending all other approvals.
- 5. Proposal from the College of Engineering for revisions to the FE Exam proposal.** Dr. Gerhardt reviewed the philosophical basis for the initial proposal. Last year Graduate Council approved the FE (Fundamentals of Engineering) exam to substitute for the GRE. This approved proposal was then submitted to the Board of Education for approval as an “equivalent measure approved by the Board” for non-thesis masters degrees in the same engineering discipline for which the person is licensed. The FE would function for admission to some Engineering programs in the same way that the GMAT functions for admissions to Business Administration programs. Students interested in pursuing a PhD are required to submit GRE scores. Many of the candidates for distance learning programs are actively working in the field. Starting in the summer, Graduate Admissions has received many variations on the exact wording (eg. NCEES Exam, Engineer-in-training, Engineer Intern) and requested guidance from Council about acceptable alternative terms. Discussion indicated that an additional alternative, the PE Exam (Professional Engineer exam) might be included in the acceptable variation list. It was explained that documentation attesting to a license as a Professional Engineer usually implies passing the FE exam AND the PE exam. The PE exam is a more applied examination than the FE, and is administered by the same national engineering examination organization. However, it is possible that some PE license holders may have not taken either the FE or the PE exam. The Council tabled the discussions so that the College of Engineering and the Graduate School can compile information from all state licensing bodies to determine what equivalencies specifically tied to exams may exist. Once that information is compiled, a proposal can be submitted with this clarifying information. Motion to table: approved unanimously.
- 6. Proposal for revisions to the previously approved TOEFL alternatives.** Dr. Bradley presented the proposal to modify previously approved language involving exceptions for posting TOEFL/alternative scores. The previously approved language included an exception for students who had attended an academic program at a college/university in an English speaking country, in the year immediately prior to admission to UF (Point 3.b). Several academic units reported that this phrase, “year immediately prior to admission” would severely restrict the admission of many qualified students. Therefore the Graduate School put forth the current proposal to revert to long-standing language, most recently stated in the 2006-07 catalog, which did not specify that the academic program had to be completed immediately prior to UF admission. Active discussion focused on the overall language skills of students, and whether the current testing exceptions are valuable or appropriate. Given that

there are other issues with English language skills testing, such as the fact that the TSE (Test of Spoken English) is no longer offered by ETS, Council decided to table the present proposal, and retain the criteria approved in Spring 2007. A task force was appointed to review all the current English language skills testing criteria for all students, including TAs. The task force will consist of Dr. Hartzema, Dr. Walsh-Childers, Ms. Hayes-Smith, Dr. Gerhardt and Dr. Bradley. Graduate Admissions will supply data on the various categories of tests. Findings will be reported back to Graduate Council. Motion to table: approved; yes=9, no=1.

7. **Proposal to sunset selected Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T) and Master of Science in Teaching (M.S.T) degrees and their majors housed in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS).** Dr. Gerhardt presented this request from CLAS to sunset degrees which have not been used for several years. Dr. Yumiko Hulvey in CLAS surveyed the appropriate departments concerning their desire to retain or eliminate the MAT and/or MST degrees. The degrees which will be sunsetted are: MAT in geography, linguistics, philosophy, political science and psychology, and MST in psychology. Motion: approved unanimously. Effective date: Fall 2007 pending all other approvals.
8. **Graduate Council member to serve on the Senate Council on Research and Scholarship Policy.** This senate policy council requested a member from the Graduate Council to serve as a voting member. Dr. Frierson indicated that the Graduate Council member would serve on the policy council concurrent with their Graduate Council term. Dr. Bram Hartzema volunteered to continue his service on this policy council.

II. INFORMATION ITEM

9. **Administrative approval: combined Bachelors/Masters in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, College of Medicine 4/1 Program.** This proposal met all the existing requirements for 4/1 degrees, and was administratively approved in the summer. Dr. Frierson indicated that the university will be more active in promoting these combined degree programs, including presentations at Preview.
10. **Update on the PhD proposal in Behavioral and Community Public Health from PPHP.** Dr. Gerhardt informed Council that per Council request, representatives from the two colleges, Health and Human Performance and Public Health and Health Professions, met during the summer. They continue to meet and are making progress on refining the PPHP proposal. Once both colleges agree on the proposal, it will be presented to Council.
11. Dean Frierson presented a plaque to Dr. Gerhardt on behalf of Council, expressing appreciation for his contributions to graduate education and leadership of the Council and for the past 3 years.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.