

**MINUTES  
GRADUATE COUNCIL  
October 18, 2007  
1:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt, Chair; Dr. Jane Brockmann, Dr. Joseph Delfino, Dr. Richard Dickinson, Dr. Eileen Fennell, Dr. Abraham Hartzema, Ms. Becky Hayes-Smith, Dr. Jeffrey Needell, Dr. Sharleen Simpson, Dr. Christopher Stanton Dr. Peggy Wallace, Dr. Kim Walsh-Childers

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Bridget Franks, Dr. Henry Frierson, Dr. Panagote Pardalos, Dr. Betty Smocovitis

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. Cammy Abernathy (College of Engineering), Dr. Kelli Brown (College of Health and Human Performance), Mr. Steve Pritz (Office of the Registrar), Dr. Mark Rieger (College of Agricultural and Life Sciences), Mr. Aaron Rising (Graduate Student Council alternate), Mr. Michael Sisk (College of Agricultural and Life Sciences), Dr. Zina Evans (Office of Admissions)

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

**I. ACTION ITEMS**

1. **Minutes of the September 20, 2007, Graduate Council Meeting.** Approved unanimously.
  
2. **Proposal from the College of Agricultural and Life Science (CALs) for changes to the following three Graduate School policies: 1) Six credits of undergraduate courses (3000-4999) outside the major may count when taken as part of an approved graduate program, 2) For work outside the major, 6 credits of courses numbered 3000 or above may be taken as part of an approved program of study, and 3) Minor work must be in an academic unit other than the major.** Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt initiated the conversation by summarizing the issues: the current graduate council definition of “major” feeds into the definition of “minor,” and impacts several other Graduate Council policies ultimately concerning degree certification by both the college and the Graduate School. Clarifying or re-defining the concepts will give guidance to the Graduate School for monitoring major and minor coursework for the degree. Dr. Mark Rieger spoke about the origin of the proposal. During the past academic year, one-third of the academic units in CALS had students whose programs of study were affected by the current policies about major, minor or applicable undergraduate credits. He prepared the proposal to get clarification of several issues, so that students and advisors will be clear, and faculty can effectively and efficiently meet student needs. The proposal requested that students in CALS be permitted to minor or use undergraduate credits from academic units that contribute to the major. An important reason is to allow increasing interdisciplinarity without constraining a student’s academic plan of study. Council discussed many aspects of the proposal. Some options:

- creating multiple course numbers in the several departments that require a specific course;
- using the 5000 Special Topics course number;
- creating a “departmental minor” so students can take whatever courses are needed;
- creating pathways within the college that are interdisciplinary;
- using the current petition process;
- eliminating a minor especially as more work is seen as interdisciplinary.

Some academic programs do not permit minors (nursing, interdisciplinary ecology). Dr. Rieger commented that many students request a minor as an employment advantage. The Graduate School deals with ~200 petitions per semester with this problem. The Graduate School typically uses the term “major” as the point of reference for the degree, rather than a department or other unit which can offer several different degrees. Handouts showed the different majors in CALS that have issues with the current policies, and a peer-review table which shows the number of credits, number of credits within the major, number of institutions which do not designate a major, and specific comments for each institution. It was concluded that changing policies about major, minor, and using undergraduate credit would need further input from graduate coordinators. Dr. Gerhardt will bring the issue to Dean Frierson as an agenda item for next week’s Graduate Coordinators Advisory Council (GCAC) meeting. The proposal was tabled as an action item, to allow feedback from the GCAC about the impact on graduate degrees across the university. Motion: tabled by unanimous vote.

- 3. Proposal to accept CISE certificate credits for graduate degrees.** A handout of the departmental response to the Graduate School technical review was distributed in case Council members had not read it via email. Dr. Cammy Abernathy outlined the need for this certificate program to continue attracting high-quality engineering PhD candidates. It is essentially a 4/1 program with the bachelor’s degree from Jaypee University using the 12 graduate credits earned in the certificate program. Credits from the certificate program would then be requested to count toward a master’s or PhD degree via the usual Transfer of Credit process. The certificate program would be on-site at UF, and give faculty the opportunity to work with the students before the students actually apply to the graduate program. Details of the proposal were reviewed with the International Center. The concept of 4/1 is already well-established in the university and the college. Dr. Abernathy believes that Jaypee would be very willing to create an agreement to deliver appropriate and timely notification of the bachelor’s degree award. The Registrar, Office of Admissions and college will work together to establish an identification mechanism. Motion: approved unanimously. Effective date: Spring 2008

The Meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm.