

MINUTES
GRADUATE COUNCIL
November 15, 2007
1:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt, Chair; Dr. Jane Brockmann, Dr. Richard Dickinson, Dr. Eileen Fennell, Dr. Abraham Hartzema, Dr. Jeffrey Needell, Mr. Aaron Rising, Dr. Panagote Pardalos, Dr. Sharleen Simpson, Dr. Betty Smocovitis, Dr. Peggy Wallace, Dr. Kim Walsh-Childers

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Joseph Delfino, Dr. Bridget Franks, Dr. Christopher Stanton

GUESTS PRESENT: Ms. Chandra Mitchell (Office of Admissions), Ms. Mary Ann Hagler (Office of the Registrar), Dr. Mark Rieger (College of Agricultural and Life Sciences), Mr. Michael Sisk (College of Agricultural and Life Sciences)

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt, Ms. Gann Enholm, Ms. Anne Taylor

A. ACTION ITEMS

1. **Minutes of the October 18, 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. Mark Rieger, Associate Dean of the college, was present for discussion. Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt reported that this topic had been presented to the Graduate Coordinators Advisory Council at its October 30th meeting. The GCAC agreed that this issue was not trivial but offered no suggestions for resolution. The Graduate Council resumed the discussion of the proposal. Dr. Gerhardt suggested confining the conversation about the current proposal to graduate courses. After a lengthy discussion that included the Graduate Council's options for action, Dr. Eileen Fennell moved that Council table this proposal but review and rewrite the current guidelines regarding the eligibility of course work to count toward a major and a minor. Dr. Mark Rieger agreed to retract the proposal in view of the fact that the Council would pursue this issue at its next meeting.

The Graduate School will prepare a document which will provide guidance to Council about the following topics: definitions of major and minor, and criteria for inclusion of courses in a major or a minor. This document will be part of the December Council agenda.

B. DISCUSSION ITEM

- 3. Graduate faculty termination.** Dr. Ken Gerhardt led a discussion regarding how to handle requests from individual faculty persons asking to be removed from the Graduate Faculty. Much of the conversation centered on the right of the faculty member to serve or not to serve on the Graduate Faculty. Arguments were presented to permit faculty persons to remove themselves from the Graduate Faculty if the appointment was outside their academic unit. However, the department chair's approval would be needed if the appointment was through the home department. Faculty members should fulfill their committee obligations to graduating students before relinquishing their Graduate Faculty status.

The Meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm.