

MINUTES
GRADUATE COUNCIL
January 21, 2010
1:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Henry Frierson, Chair, Dr. Virginia Dodd, Dr. Peter Hansen, Dr. Christopher Janiszewski, Dr. Michael Marsiske, Dr. Sharleen Simpson, Dr. Kim Walsh-Childers

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Joseph Delfino, Dr. Maureen Keller-Wood, Dr. Leslie Odom, Dr. Craig Osenberg, Dr. Leonardo Villalón, Dr. Peggy Wallace, Mr. Matthew Michel (GSC), Mr. Matthew Goldstein (GSC)

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. Zina Evans (Admissions), Ms. MaryAnn Hagler (Registrar), Ms. Laura Robertson and Dr. Jonathan Helton(College of Fine Arts), Dr. Roger TranSonTay (College of Engineering),

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Karen Bradley (recording), Dr. Laurence Alexander, Ms. Rimjhim Banerjee, Ms. Janet Broiles, Ms. Gann Enholm, Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt, Mr. Earl Wade, Ms. Stacy Wallace

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 P.M.

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Minutes from the October 15, 2009 meeting.** Approved unanimously via online voting.
2. **Proposal for the addition of a second concentration in Music in the College of Fine Arts.** Dr. Jonathan Helton discussed the proposal to permit students to formally add a second concentration to their degree, and thus have the second concentration listed on the transcript. It is not possible to offer all the concentrations as majors. The proposal contains concentration requirements of 9 or 12 credits, as approved by the faculty in each area of study. All faculty in the college are in favor of this because there are a number of students who desire these options. Conducting is the only option that might extend graduation, by one semester. Students in these programs typically self-fund. Approved: unanimously. Effective date: Fall 2010
3. **Form a nominating committee to create the ballot for new members to serve on the Graduate Council.** Per usual practice, the departing Council members will serve as the nominating committee for new members to be elected for the 2010-2011 academic year: Dr. Joe Delfino, Dr. Sharleen Simpson, Dr. Peggy Wallace, Dr. Kim Walsh-Childers, and the member from the Graduate Student Council, Ms. Lexi Wynne. They will seek nominations and present names for Council to select the ballot for election later in the Spring.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. PhD Quantitative Assessment Program. Dr. Frierson reported that this project was started by the Graduate School as requested by the University President. There are 9 indicators of performance for all the PhD programs. The four Input indicators are: 1) current number of enrolled students in the Fall, 2) current percent of minority students, 3) proportion of admitted PhD applicants to applied PhD applicants, 4) proportion of matriculated students to admitted students. The two Throughput indicators are: 1) median time-to-degree, 2) attrition rate for students first enrolled 5-8 years ago. Three Outcomes indicators are: 1) completion rate for PhD students first enrolled 5-8 years ago, 2) average yearly PhD degrees awarded, and 3) *proportion of 5-year average number of degrees awarded to most recent Fall enrollment. Several demographic variables, such as GRE scores, are not used as indicators, but as additional information.

* A proportion for the 5-year average number of degrees awarded divided by current fall enrollment numbers. This is an indication of efficiency in graduating enrolled students.

2. Updates of activities in the Graduate School. The Office of Graduate Minority Programs manages several major activities. The Board of Education Summer Program (BOE), is an introduction to graduate school. Bridge to the Doctorate is an NSF funded program dedicated to STEM disciplines and supports 12 student with 4 additional students supported by DSR funds. The second year GPA of these students is 3.63. This is notable because of the short recruiting time when we learned the program would be funded. There will be another proposal submitted shortly for a new cohort. UF has been getting an increasing number of McKnight fellows. This Florida Education Foundation supported program is targeted to increase African-American and Hispanic students in doctoral studies. There is a one-year McNair graduate assistantship, targeted to bring in McNair undergraduate scholars to UF for graduate school. The Delores Auzenne dissertation award funds approximately 10 advanced PhD students/year with \$6500 and some tuition support. There is also the Supplemental Tuition program for final semester support for students in terminal degree programs. Spring Campus Visitation will occur on February 25-26, 2010. This program is critical to provide one-to-one contact that can make the difference whether a student matriculates at UF. There are several activities for STEM PhD students, such as monthly meetings like the PhD forums which are held at different locations across campus. There will soon be a McKnight Fellows forum started. The UF-Santa Fe College partnership supports 5 advanced PhD students to obtain teaching experience. The UF students receive an assistantship and tuition, and Santa Fe receives excellent teachers. Ms. Broiles and Mr. Wade attend numerous career fairs to recruit students.

A number of professional development activities have been and will be offered to all graduate students, covering a variety of relevant topics. Members of the council may soon be contacted by Ms. Broiles or Ms. Brittany Deputy to participate as speakers or generate ideas for professional development seminars.

The Graduate School is involved with multiple activities coming out of the NSF funded Innovation through Institutional Integration (I-Cubed) grant. The NSF funded Atlantic Coast Social Behavioral and Economics Alliance provides \$5k topups, dissertation awards and undergraduate research funds. The University of Florida, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, University of Miami, University of Maryland-College Park and Howard University are the five institutions involved. Additional grants are continuously being written, with an unsolicited NSF proposal for supporting minorities submitted today.

The Graduate School Fellowship (GSF) program provides colleges a certain number of awards to distribute to the academic units. A single award totals \$100,000 over 4 years; academic units are permitted flexibility in how to distribute them, such as 4 or 5 year awards or as top-ups to existing stipends. Students can be appointed as traditional fellows or as teaching/research assistants. If a student leaves the academic program, the funds revert to the Graduate School. We are always trying to find ways to compete with our peers to get the best students. The funding formula for the GSF is primarily based on graduation rates. We hope to increase the total dollar value available.

The main mission of the Graduate Student Records unit is to certify graduate degrees. Information on milestones, such as admission to candidacy, credential holds, transfer of credit, and international experiences are other tasks handled by the staff. The unit continues to transition from paper to electronic, web-based information exchange. The next major project will be to have the program files imaged.

The Data Management unit maintains and enhances the Graduate School Information Management System (GIMS). This system includes graduate student records and graduate faculty information. GIMS holds a huge amount of data, and is used to generate information/requests, such as the PhD Assessment project. The Job Placement website is also part of this unit's responsibilities.

The Editorial Services Offices has 3 main missions: editorial processing for theses and dissertations, graduate curriculum, and graduate catalog. . The unit certifies all theses and dissertations as part of the degree certification process, and submits the final products to the University Library for archiving and dissemination. All staff work for the Graduate Curriculum Committee is handled by this office, usually through the UF Approval Tracking System. This unit is also responsible for the collection of updated data and information for the annual Graduate Catalog.

- 3. A proposed template for information about UF PhD programs that will be displayed on the open web.** The Job Placement website is a new undertaking. The National Research Council (NRC) is seeking repositories of this information, and UF is one of a handful of major research institutions that has such a system in place to generate data. We hope to get the job placement data launched as a website in addition to program admissions information so that students can get a better idea about their "fit" for a program. Dr. Gerhardt shared a draft document of a template for web display. A suggestion was made to show some of the data items as ranges rather than

a single data point (mean, median). The time-to-degree information might be more helpful if it could be split into 2 categories: TTD for students who enter with a masters, and TTD for students who earn a masters as part of their PhD program. Since this particular data point is also what NRC measures, it will probably continue to stay as a single item. The plan is to ultimately ask PhD graduates to periodically update their job placement information. It also was suggested to consider linkages to national benchmarks for PhD job placement.

The meeting adjourned at 2:18 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 18, 2009