

MINUTES
GRADUATE COUNCIL
May 20, 2010
1:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Henry Frierson, Chair, Dr. Joseph Delfino, Dr. Leslie Odom, Dr. Craig Osen berg, Dr. Sharleen Simpson, Dr. Leonardo Villalón, Dr. Peggy Wallace, Dr. Kim Walsh-Childers, Ms. Alexandra Wynne (GSC)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Virginia Dodd, Dr. Peter Hansen, Dr. Christopher Janiszewski, Dr. Maureen Keller-Wood, Dr. Michael Marsiske, Mr. Matthew Goldstein (GSC alternate)

GUESTS PRESENT: Mr. Richard Bryant (Admissions), Ms. Mary Ann Hagler (Registrar), Dr. Roger Tran Son Tay (Mechanical & Aerospace and Biomedical Engineering)

STAFF PRESENT: Ms. Rimjhim Banerjee, Ms. Gann Enholm, Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt, Ms. Stacy Wallace (recording)

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 P.M.

I. ACTION ITEMS

1. **Minutes from the April 15, 2010 Graduate Council meeting.**
Approved unanimously.
2. **Proposal for (1) Student Senate Resolution in support of the GSC Statement of Principles and (2) Statement of Principles.** Ms. Lexi Wynne noted that Mr. Matt Michel will be directing the proposal from this point forward because she is graduating. The proposal presented for Council today has already been reviewed by General Counsel and revised accordingly. Any suggestions made by Council will go back to the Student Senate. With consent by the Student Senate, the proposal will then move to Faculty Senate. The vetted final draft will undergo one more General Counsel review and final sign-off. Council had several discussion points and suggestions. Change the word “department” to “academic unit”. Distribute the Statement of Principles to new graduate faculty upon appointment and on a regular basis to all graduate faculty. The question of whether this document is an enforceable policy or rather an advisement was clarified by Dr. Gerhardt and Ms. Wynne. The idea was initially conceived as a “Bill of Rights”, modeled after similar contracts in several other major research universities. Graduate Student Council wanted it to be a binding document, signed by faculty. However, General Counsel did not support that definition and required a change to “Statement of Principles”. Once approved by the Faculty Senate, the document will be placed in the Graduate Student Handbook so students can have it as a reference. The point was made that employment issues are

covered under collective bargaining by the GAU contract. Problems with academic rights are dealt with by the ombudsman. Although many faculty currently follow these practices, having these principles formalized and written allows accessibility by all. These ideas are not necessarily common knowledge to all our students, especially our international students. The motion was made and accepted by Council that revisions be made to the current document.

- 3. Proposal to eliminate committee requirements for Non-Thesis Degrees.** Dr. Ken Gerhardt presented the proposal. Currently, the requirement is that non-thesis degree students have a committee composed of at least one person, the chair, whose role is advisory. The current practice results in skewed data in GIMS. This proposal will eliminate the need for designating a committee in GIMS for any non-thesis degree. This modification does not change department practices regarding supervising non-thesis students. Projects-in-lieu-of-thesis degree programs will still require a committee in GIMS. This proposal is simply a minor modification to align data in GIMS to present a more realistic picture. When data for milestones is entered into GIMS, for non-thesis students there will not be an option to form a committee. Some members were concerned that the tracking will fall back to departments since they need numbers for funding, reports, etc. Dr. Gerhardt believes that appropriate reports can be generated in GIMS. Approval: unanimous. Effective date: as soon as infrastructure will allow.
- 4. Proposal for dual Master of Science degrees with an international institution (CRISP).** Dr. Roger Trans Son Tay presented the proposal. This proposal has been submitted to the ATLANTIS funding program at NSF, and will only be put in place if the funding is received. It will provide a small number of students both from UF and from the international institution the opportunity to earn 2 master's degrees simultaneously, one from UF and the other from Strasbourg. Students will receive stipends when they are at UF. The benefits of having 2 degrees allow them to work in either country. Having dual degrees makes both institutions responsible and accountable. Approval: unanimous. Effective date: immediate.

II. INFORMATION ITEM

- 1. Faculty elected for Graduate Council 2010-2013.** The new elected members of Graduate Council are Dr. Lisa McElwee-White and Dr. Joyce Stechmiller. Four members are retiring: Dr. Walsh-Childers, Dr. Wallace, Dr. Delfino and Dr. Simpson, as is the student representative, Ms. Wynne.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Dr. Gerhardt updated Council about the recruiting trip he and Dean Frierson recently took to Chile. At the Graduate Student Fair, there were approximately 100 schools, with 8-9 US universities. Council suggested that UFIC be brought into the loop if/when these students will be coming, so that they can be tracked. The suggestion was made to conduct a recruiting trip to Brazil.

2. Mr. Bryant discussed the changes to NERDC “Screen 7” as information to Council. He indicated that the departments get the necessary information about changes. It is true that departments have a lot of personnel turnover, and training in these processes needs to be a priority.

The meeting adjourned at 1:54 P.M

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 16, 2010