

**MINUTES**  
**GRADUATE COUNCIL**  
September 19, 2013  
**1:00 P.M.**

**264 GRINTER HALL CONFERENCE ROOM**

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dr. Henry Frierson, Chair; Dr. Sid Dobrin, Dr. Amir Erez, Dr. Mary Ann Ferguson, Dr. Christopher Janelle, Dr. Ellen Martin, Dr. Heather McAuslane, Dr. Cindy Prins, Dr. Dietmar Siemann, Dr. Pamela Soltis, Ms. Rhonda Williams (GSC)
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dr. Ann Horgas, Dr. Carole Kimberlin, Dr. Panagote Pardalos, Ms. Courtney Reijo (GSC)
- GUESTS PRESENT:** Dr. Thomasenia Adams (Education), Dr. Linda Bloom (Medicine), Ms. Mary Ann Hagler (Registrar), Dr. Amanda Hodges (Agricultural and Life Sciences), Dr. Ron Mandel (Medicine), Dr. William Millard (Pharmacy), Dr. Brian Myers (Agricultural and Life Sciences), Dr. Sue Semple-Rowland (Medicine), Dr. Tommy Smith (Pharmacy), Ms. Heather Steingraber (Pharmacy), Dr. Ian Tebbett (Pharmacy), Dr. Elaine Turner (Agricultural and Life Sciences)
- STAFF PRESENT:** Dr. Karen Bradley (recording), Dr. Rimjhim Banerjee-Batist, Dr. Paul Duncan, Ms. Gann Enholm, Mr. Matt Mitterko, Mr. Robert Parker, Ms. Stacy Wallace

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dean Frierson welcomed all members to the first Council meeting of the new year. He introduced the 4 new members: Dr. Horgas (absent), Dr. Prins, Dr. Siemann, and Dr. Soltis. He also handed out a summary sheet of the process used by the Graduate School to review Graduate Council agenda items.

**I. ACTION ITEMS**

- 1. Minutes from the May 16, 2013 Graduate Council meeting.** Motion: approved unanimously.
- 2. Proposal from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences for a graduate certificate in Leadership in Agriculture and Natural Resources.** Dr. Brian Myers was present. Motion: approved unanimously. Effective date: Fall 2013.
- 3. Proposal from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences for revisions to the requirements for the Doctor of Plant Medicine degree.** Dr. Elaine Turner and Dr. Amanda Hodges were present. This degree was unique to UF when formed, and now there is another one at the University of Nebraska. The current degree requirements (number of credits and length of internships) make completion in four years very difficult. The proposed curricular re-design now allows greater flexibility. During the transition, GIMS will accommodate students who will graduate under the old curriculum. Students starting in Fall 2013 can choose. Motion: approved unanimously. Effective date: Fall 2013.
- 4. Proposal from the College of Education to sunset the Research and Evaluation Methodology EdS degree.** Dr. Thomasenia Adams stated that students have not been admitted to this EdS program since Fall 2011. The current Master's and PhD are the only degrees needed. Motion: approved unanimously. Effective date: Fall 2013 or when all other approvals received.

- 5. Proposal from the College of Education to sunset the Student Personnel in Higher Education EdS degree.** Dr. Thomasenia Adams indicated that students have not been admitted for several years. The current Master's and PhD are the only degrees needed. In this discipline, the master's is sometimes a direct feed to the PhD. Motion: approved unanimously. Effective date: Fall 2013 or when all other approvals received.
- 6. Proposal from the College of Medicine to sunset the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology PhD degree.** Dr. Linda Bloom stated that starting in 1996, the Interdisciplinary Program in Medical Sciences (IDP) incorporates this degree. There have been no students in the program since 1999. Motion: approved unanimously. Effective date: Fall 2013 or when all other approvals received.
- 7. Proposal from the College of Medicine for a graduate certificate in Biomedical Neuroscience.** Dr. Sue Semple-Rowland discussed with Council that based on the impact of neuroscience on many other disciplines, knowledge in this certificate will help many professionals in other fields to advance. With trends in sciences towards more interdisciplinarity, this certificate fills a niche market, with the potential for a very large audience. The courses presented are introductory and in a prescribed order, with two internal tracks to accommodate individual backgrounds. Additional courses will become available in the future as they are developed for online delivery. Evaluations will be conducted to determine optimum interactions in online platforms as well as course sequencing. All courses will be in the catalog. Motion: approved unanimously. Effective date: Fall 2014.

## **II. DISCUSSION**

Proposal from the Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy to revise the Graduate Certificate policy.

Dr. Bill Millard, Dr. Tommy Smith, and Dr. Ian Tebbett, all from the College of Pharmacy, shared several perspectives with Council about the impact that previously approved changes to the Graduate Certificate Policy would have on their several existing (and future) distance-learning certificates. In particular, Dr. Millard indicated the revision now requires that participants must be enrolled to receive credits. This means that current students would have to re-take credits for coursework already completed. Dr. Tebbett indicated that many participants take 1-2 courses as a "trial". His perspective is that since current graduate degree requirements permit transfer of credit for 9, 15, or even 30 credits from work previously taken at the graduate level and earned with a B or better, the same rules should apply for certificates. He pointed out that currently, all online courses in Pharmacy are letter-graded. Dr. Smith stated that the current policy seems to be designed for "bricks and mortar" delivery, rather than distance education. The audiences are different, and often working professionals want to "test drive" the courses before committing to an academic program. In many areas, certificates provide a pipeline to master's degrees. It is important that all parts of the university contribute to the leadership role UF is taking in the "distance delivered education" space.

Other comments include that fact that data needs to be collected about completion rates, so it is imperative that a "start time" be designated properly. The policy was revised in May partly to address this university level concern. The infrastructure for the certificate admission process is still being developed centrally; there is no current mechanism to review/approve transfer of credit for certificates. The Registrar's Office can annotate transcripts appropriately, based on what Graduate Council needs.

The meeting adjourned at 1:55 pm.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, October 17, 2013**