

**MINUTES
GRADUATE COUNCIL**

October 17, 2013

1:00 P.M.

264 GRINTER HALL CONFERENCE ROOM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Paul Duncan, Chair; Dr. Sid Dobrin, Dr. Christopher Janelle, Dr. Ellen Martin, Dr. Heather McAuslane, Dr. Panagote Pardalos, Dr. Cindy Prins, Ms. Courtney Reijo (GSC) Dr. Dietmar Siemann, Dr. Pamela Soltis,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Amir Erez, Dr. Mary Ann Ferguson, Dr. Ann Horgas, Dr. Carole Kimberlin, Ms. Rhonda Williams (GSC)

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. George Baker (Agricultural and Life Sciences), Mr. Rick Bryant (Admissions), Ms. Mary Ann Hagler (Registrar), Dr. Sarah McKune (Public Health and Health Professions), Dr. Czerne Reid (Medicine), Dr. Robert Ries (Design, Construction and Planning), Mr. Scott Sager (Agricultural and Life Sciences), Dr. Mary People-Sheps (Public Health and Health Professions)

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Karen Bradley (recording), Dr. Rimjhim Banerjee-Batist, Ms. Gann Enholm, Dr. Emilia Hodge, Mr. Matt Mitterko, Ms. Stacy Wallace

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

I. ACTION ITEMS

1. **Minutes from the September 19, 2013 Graduate Council meeting.** Motion: approved unanimously.
2. **Proposal from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences for a graduate certificate in Aquaculture and Fish Health.** Mr. Scott Sager explained that this certificate is a partnership between the College of Veterinary Medicine, and the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. They expect 12 students/year; delivery methods to be both on-campus and online. Several of the courses are now listed under General Topics numbering. They are in the College curriculum process now to be converted to individual courses. Motion: approved unanimously. Effective date: Spring 2014.
3. **Proposal from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences for a graduate certificate in Quantitative Fisheries Science.** Mr. Scott Sager explained that this certificate is a direct outgrowth of a NOAA grant. There is a national need to recruit, train and retain skilled professionals. Of note, all courses must be earned with a B. Motion: approved unanimously. Effective date: Spring 2014.
4. **Proposal from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences for a graduate certificate in Food Safety.** Dr. George Baker explained that this certificate has been in the thought process in the College for 15 years. It is geared towards working professionals in the national food industry. All courses are online. They expect 5-10 participants in the first year, and 25-30 in three years. Motion: approved unanimously. Effective date: Spring 2014.

- 5. Proposal from the College of Medicine for a graduate certificate in Addiction Counseling.** Dr. Czerne Reid presented this proposal. There will be a large increase in the number of addiction counseling professionals needed in the field, as a result of increased mental health services and addiction treatment due to the Affordable Care Act. There is also the trend in the penal system to move from incarceration to treatment. The specific coursework will have the prefix changed from the incorrect MDU (undergraduate courses) to the correct GMS (graduate courses) through the curriculum approval process. Via the UCC External Consultation Form, the course work has been reviewed for duplicative content and signed off with no objections as follows: 1. CLAS-Psychology: one course has overlapping content, but the functionality and audiences are different; 2. HHP-Health Education and Behavior; 3. PHHP-multiple units in the college; 4. Nursing-the psychiatric mental health curriculum has come content overlap, but no real duplication. It was pointed out that the Counseling Education Program in the College of Education includes a concentration in Mental Health Counseling, but neither the college nor the program has yet been consulted. Dr. Reid will check with the director/s of this program, and notify the Graduate School of the results before final approval for this certificate will be given. The College of Medicine is working towards a master's degree program in this field. Certificate earners will primarily be physicians and nurses; there will be a clinical supervision component. The Department of Psychiatry has a very large network to provide the necessary clinical supervision hours. The department chair, Dr. Mark Gold, has been in discussions with the College of Education. The following motion was made: to approve the proposal, pending conversation with the College of Education about the certificate concept, as well as review of possible duplicative content in the coursework as evidenced by completion of the UCC External Consultation Form. Motion: approved unanimously with above conditions. Effective date: Spring 2014 pending Graduate School receipt of appropriate information from the College of Education.
- 6. Proposal from the College of Public Health and Health Professions to request permission to offer the option of the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) or the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) to applicants to the Master of Public Health (MPH) program.** Dr. Mary People-Sheps and Dr. Sarah McKune were present. The college fully expects to have GRE scores for most applicants. However, at the end of Spring, they receive a large number of applicants who want this MPH degree program prior to attending medical school. This pool of applicants has only taken the MCAT, rather than the GRE. Over the years, the Graduate School has approved individual petitions to allow the MCAT to substitute for the GRE. The college discovered this year that major competitors are relaxing the GRE requirement to allow the MCAT scores. MCAT scores would be used the same way as GRE scores - as part of a holistic admission evaluation process. Although MCAT scores are officially available longer than 5 years, the MPH program will only accept MCAT scores up to 5 years. This is consistent with using GRE scores, that are officially available for 5 years. The program uses a GRE percentile, rather than a threshold score, and will use the same rationale for the MCAT. This is one of the indicators needed for accreditation. The college has found no difference between students admitted with the GRE and those admitted with the MCAT. The MCAT is presently more science focused than the GRE, but it does have language and math components. It is currently under revision, and will have more emphasis on humanities. The program puts a fair amount of weight on the personal statement portion of the application. Mr. Rick Bryant in Admissions pointed out that the graduate application process does not accept MCAT or LSAT scores. Therefore these admissions decisions will need to be made as exceptions by the Graduate School. The question was raised about how the Graduate School will recognize that the MCAT score is official, since the Office of Admissions will not be involved. Dr. Peoples-Sheps will check on how the scores will be

recognized and confirmed as official. The Graduate School will have to designate these as special admissions. Dr. Duncan will have Graduate School staff look at AAU institutions that may use of MCAT vs. GRE scores for admissions purposes. Motion: to approve the proposal in concept: approved unanimously. Effective date: Spring 2014 preferred. The Graduate School will report back to Council if the receipt of official scores is not straightforward.

7. **Proposal from the College of Design, Construction, and Planning for implementation of the Master of Science in Fire and Emergency Sciences.** Dr. Duncan informed Council that while the master's degree program was approved in 1999 at the (then) Board of Regents, it was never implemented. This proposal is now required for implementation. Dr. Robert Ries explained that in the 1999 approval, the bachelor's degree was approved as an online program. However, it was felt at the time that there was not enough demand for the online graduate degree. Now, all the courses are in place to offer the online master's degree. Motion: approved unanimously. Effective date: Spring 2014.

II. ANNOUNCEMENT

Dr. Duncan informed Council that there are several new degree programs on the horizon that will require Sub-Committee review. The College of Business Administration has three proposals. They currently offer one degree program with 3 majors. The problem is that the College does not look like it offers degrees in separate disciplines. These new degrees will actually transition the programs from majors to separate degrees. Graduate Council has to be involved in this process. Dr. Bradley will coordinate the 2-person sub-committee review process.

The meeting adjourned at 1:53 pm.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 21, 2013