

**MINUTES
GRADUATE COUNCIL**

April 17, 2014
1:00 P.M.

264 GRINTER HALL CONFERENCE ROOM

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

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

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. Timothy Brophy (Office of Institutional Assessment), Mr. Rick Bryant (Admissions), Mr. Rajeeb Das (Office of Institutional Assessment), Ms. Mary Ann Hagler (Registrar), Dr. Brian Marchman (Distance and Continuing Education), Dr. Chris Silver (College of Design, Construction and Planning), Dr. Taylor Stein (College of Agricultural and Life Sciences), Mr. Mark Zakshevsky (Distance and Continuing Education)

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Karen Bradley (recording), Dr. Paul Duncan, Ms. Gann Enholm, Ms. Caitlin Nelson, Mr. Robert Parker, Ms. Stacy Wallace

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 P.M.

I. ACTION ITEMS

1. **Minutes from the March 20, 2014 Graduate Council meeting.** Motion: approved unanimously.
2. **Proposal from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences for revisions to the existing Master of Forest Resources and Conservation degree administered through the School of Forest Resources & Conservation.** Dr. Taylor Stein was present. The changes requested will bring this program in line re number of credits and grading schemes with peer programs in the southeastern United States. Motion: approved unanimously. Effective date: Summer 2014.
3. **Proposal from the College of Medicine for an online graduate certificate in Clinical and Community Health Outcomes Research.** This proposal was withdrawn by the academic unit prior to the Council meeting.

II. DISCUSSION ITEM

1. **Graduate faculty status.** Dr. Paul Duncan reported to Council that there is active discussion on campus about several issues related to Graduate Faculty status. With the advent of Academic Analytics reporting and the PhD Assessment tool, one issue is the

use of data in graduate education. A related item is what kinds of changes might be made to the current listing of eligible academic titles. Dr. Chris Silver, dean of the College of Design, Construction, and Planning, spoke about his college and their continued internal use of 2-tier status due to the historical status of terminal master's degrees for some of the college's disciplines. The PhD program has grown in numbers over the past several years, but the number of faculty eligible by Graduate Faculty Status has not grown proportionately. The college has a number of faculty with title Lecturer who are very well prepared academically and professionally to supervise master's students, particularly project-in-lieu of thesis students. However, current eligibility rules prevent these faculty from serving on committees in any role other than "Special Appointment". Other Council members commented about various complexities in the graduate faculty appointment, monitoring and retention processes.

Council expressed a view that circumstances should be reviewed to seek short term relief for Colleges seeking to appoint lecturers to the graduate faculty for purposes of supervising Master degree candidates, and an interest in pursuing a larger discussion and review of Graduate School policy in this area.

It was also pointed out that any changes to graduate faculty policy and procedures need to be in compliance with SACS accreditation standards.

Dr. Duncan will continue the conversation at the next Council meeting.

III. INFORMATION ITEM

1. **Update about Graduate Council ballot.** Dr. Karen Bradley reported that as of 1 pm on Thursday, April 17, 759 votes had been cast. She requested that Council members remind their units, and colleges, to please vote. The ballot will close on April 23.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 pm.

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 15, 2014