

MINUTES
GRADUATE COUNCIL
September 18, 2014
1:00 P.M.

264 GRINTER HALL CONFERENCE ROOM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Henry Frierson, Chair; Dr. Nancy Fichtman-Dana, Dr. Ann Horgas, Dr. Christopher Janelle, Dr. Ellen Martin, Dr. Heather McAuslane, Dr. Kevin Orr, Dr. Joanna Peris, Dr. Cindy Prins, Dr. Connie Shehan, Dr. Dietmar Siemann, Ms. Courtney Reijo (GSC)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Amir Erez, Dr. Pamela Soltis, Ms. Julie Emminger (GSC alternate)

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. Jerry Bennett (Agronomy), Mr. Nathan Blinn (GSC Alternate), Dr. Joel Brendemuhl (College of Agricultural and Life Sciences), Mr. Rick Bryant (Admissions), Dr. Jason Butler (Chemical Engineering), Dr. Yehia Daaka (Anatomy and Cell Biology), Mr. Rajeeb Das (Office of Institutional Assessment), Mr. Dan Hodges (Registrar's Office), Dr. Nam-Ho Kim (Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering), Dr. Sarah McKune (Epidemiology – PHHP), Ms. Laura Robertson (College of the Arts), Dr. Maria Rogal (College of the Arts), Dr. Diane Rowland (Agronomy)

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Rimjhim Banerjee-Batist, Dr. Paul Duncan, Ms. Gann Enholm, Dr. Rhonda Moraca (recording), Ms. Caitlin Nelson, Ms. Stacy Wallace

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

Dr. Frierson welcomed members and guests to the first meeting of the academic year, and introduced new members: Dr. Fichtman-Dana, Dr. Shehan, Dr. Orr, and Dr. Peris.

I. ACTION ITEMS

1. **Minutes from the May 15, 2014 Graduate Council meeting.** Motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.
2. **Proposal from the College of Medicine for a graduate certificate in Medical Human Anatomy.** Dr. Yehia Daaka (Anatomy and Cell Biology) was present for discussion. There was discussion on the mode of delivery for some of the courses (online) and that the department already has two certificates. Motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously. Effective date: Fall 2014 (per proposal).
3. **Proposal from the College of Engineering to terminate the graduate certificate in Construction Engineering.** There was discussion that in cases of termination, Graduate School staff primarily check to make sure no students are currently pursuing a certificate. This certificate has had no students for some time, hence the proposal to terminate. Motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously. Effective date: Fall 2014 (per proposal)
4. **Proposal from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences for a graduate certificate in Sustainable Agroecosystems.** Dr. Joel Brendemuhl (College of Agricultural and Life Sciences) and Dr. Diane Rowland (Agronomy) were present for discussion. No discussion. Motion was made, seconded, and

approved unanimously. Effective date: Fall 2014 (per proposal)

5. **Proposal from the College of Public Health and Health Professions for a graduate certificate in Global Health.** Dr. Sarah McKune (Epidemiology – PHHP) was present for discussion. There was some discussion on including additional International Health courses in HHP, which is possible according to the flexible language of the certificate proposal, though major changes to the course listings would likely come back to the Graduate Council. Motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously. Effective date: Fall 2014 (per proposal).
6. **Proposal from the College of the Arts for an exemption to the GRE admission requirement for international applicants to the performance disciplines.** Ms. Laura Robertson (College of the Arts) and Dr. Maria Rogal (College of the Arts) were present for discussion. College of the Arts representatives indicated that UF is one of the only universities in the country still requiring the GRE for admission to an Arts program, since they primarily look at portfolios for admission. They believe that this requirement is stopping students from applying, and are therefore asking for the exemption. An appropriate TOEFL score is still required. Motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously. Effective date: Spring 2014.
7. **Proposal between the University of Florida and the University of Aix – Marseille for a dual degree.** Dr. Jason Butler (Chemical Engineering) was present for discussion. Dr. Butler indicated that this dual degree is part of an ongoing program to send graduate students to work in foreign university labs for extended periods of time, and that so far they have 8-12 students in progress towards or having already been awarded a dual degree. Motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously. Effective date: Fall 2014 pending further approvals from [Office of the Provost and General Counsel](#).
8. **Proposal between the University of Florida and the L’Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Mines de St-Etienne for a dual degree.** Dr. Nam-Ho Kim (Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering) was present for discussion. No discussion. Motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously. Effective date: Fall 2014 pending further approvals from [Office of the Provost and General Counsel](#).

II. INFORMATION ITEMS

9. **Provost appointed Graduate Council members for 2014-2017.** New members were welcomed at the beginning of the meeting.
10. **Dual graduate degree template.** This template gives some guidelines for collaboration with international programs for dual degrees. There was some discussion of collaboration with domestic partners, though that does not apparently usually come in the form of a dual degree. There was some discussion of the nature of a “dual degree” – where the student receives two stand-alone degrees from partner institutions for work that is separate but overlapping enough to merit some “duality.” The template tries to make it clear that at least the UF degree has to have enough merit to stand alone as a graduate degree. Members were encouraged to review the template and add any further necessary information.
11. Administratively approved item:
 - a. **Proposal from the College of Medicine to offer their existing on-campus graduate certificate in Health Outcomes and Policy, in a second, on-line mode of delivery.** There was some discussion on current policy, which allows departments to offer a certificate in an additional modality without Graduate Council approval. These proposals will henceforth come though as informational items. Graduate School staff check to make sure that the certificate is exactly the same one as previously approved.
12. **Proposed organizational changes in the College of Nursing.** This is a proposal to move from a three-department structure to a two-department structure. Since all students and faculty are organizationally at the college level, this restructuring should not negatively affect them. There was some discussion from College of Nursing members indicating that this restructuring is a positive move that will foster greater

communication and distribute faculty demands more equitably.

III. DISCUSSION ITEM

13. **Graduate certificate policy.** This policy will likely come back to the Graduate Council in October as an action item. This new version of the policy is intended to accomplish three things: (1) clean up inconsistencies in previous versions, (2) make sure that Graduate Council certificate policies align with University admissions policies, and (3) answer the question of which courses can count toward the certificate and when. The proposed compromise is to say that at least half of the certificate has to be taken after admission, and all of the courses have to be UF courses. Members were encouraged to review the document. There was a question about students who have already received a UF degree who might come back to earn a certificate: would courses they have already taken count towards the certificate? Discussion indicated that it might be wise to include a position on this in the new policy that would be consistent with current timelines for graduate degrees (namely 7 years for a Ph.D. and 5 for a master's degree). An electronic copy of the new policy will be sent to members.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 16th, 2014