

MINUTES
GRADUATE COUNCIL
February 19th, 2015
1:00 P.M.

264 GRINTER HALL CONFERENCE ROOM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Henry Frierson, Chair; Dr. Nancy Fichtman Dana; Dr. Amir Erez; Dr. Christopher Janelle; Dr. Ellen Martin; Dr. Heather McAuslane; Dr. Kevin Orr; Dr. Cindy Prins; Dr. Connie Shehan; Dr. Dietmar Siemann; Mr. Nathan Blinn (GSC alternate)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Ann Horgas; Dr. Joanna Peris; Dr. Pamela Soltis; Ms. Courtney Reijo (GSC)

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. Sivaramakrishnan Balachandar (Mechanical Engineering), Mr. Rick Bryant (Admissions), Mr. Rajeeb Das (Office of Institutional Assessment), Ms. Mary Ann Hagler (Office of the Registrar), Dr. Trey Hamilton (Civil Engineering), Mr. Mark Zakshevsky (Distance & Continuing Education)

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Rimjhim Banerjee-Batist, Dr. R. Paul Duncan, Ms. Gann Enholm, Dr. Emelia Hodge, Mr. Matthew Mitterko, Dr. Rhonda Moraca, Ms. Caitlin Nelson (recording), Mr. Robert Parker, Ms. Stacy Wallace.

Meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m.

I. ACTION ITEMS

1. **Minutes from the January 15, 2015 Graduate Council meeting.** No discussion. Motion to approve was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

CONCENTRATION:

2. **Proposal from the College of Engineering for a new concentration in Structural Engineering (#9943).** Dr. Trey Hamilton was present for discussion. Dr. Hamilton made a brief introduction to the proposal, in summary: students must take specific courses, four of those are required and another six as electives, with a 3.0 GPA or better in the four courses to attain the concentration. Dr. Duncan indicated staff review showed no outstanding issues with this proposal. No further discussion. Motion to approve was made, seconded, and approved unanimously. Effective date: Summer 2015, per proposal, pending other approvals.

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE:

3. **Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for a new graduate certificate in Medical Anthropology (#9526).** Dr. Sharon Abramowitz and Dr. Susan deFrance were not present for discussion. Dr. Duncan indicated that the graduate school staff had some concerns during staff analysis: in particular that the proposed certificate may not meet the spirit of the policy on certificates, which defines a certificate as “a” singular collection of courses. This proposal includes a long list of courses, any three of which are sufficient to attain the certificate.

Graduate School staff met with the submitters to suggest they revise the proposal (e.g. pare down courses, divide into several certificates), but they chose to submit it in the current form. Historically, some certificates like this (with many courses) were approved before the change of the Graduate Certificate Policy – and the Graduate School staff are now in the process of going back to revise those older ones to bring them in line with current policy. Dr. Duncan recommended tabling the proposal and allowing the Graduate School staff to meet with the submitters again. Council discussion followed:

Q: If they have potentially two or three certificates worth of material here, what is the hesitation to separate the proposal [into multiple certificates]?

A: The department may wind up with so many possible single certificates that it would be unwieldy to administer.

Dr. Duncan noted that the transcript will say “Certificate in Medical Anthropology,” but three students may have three completely different clusters of courses – so how does that transcript remark have a coherent meaning for multiple audiences?

Q: I see “approved research topics” course as part of certificate? Is that independent study? Is that common?

A: It is not common among other certificates.

Q: The issue is the choice of multiple foundation courses – one foundation course with multiple electives might be easier to accept.

Motion to table was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

DUAL DEGREE:

- 4. Proposal for a Dual Degree between the University of Florida and the Universidad Nacional de Cuyo for Jorge Salinas.** Dr. Sivaramakrishnan Balachandar was present for discussion. Dr. Balachandar made a brief statement: The student has finished his master’s degree with Nuclear Center in Argentina, which is by far the best engineering institution in Argentina. He will stay a minimum of two years in Argentina and a minimum of two years here at UF, satisfying all requirements for both institutions. This is a very good opportunity to attain a very good student, and the department wishes to establish a pipeline for future students. Dr. Duncan: This proposal is the first of these proposals coming through with new dual degree template. No further discussion. Motion to approve was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

II. INFORMATION ITEMS

- 5. Graduate Programs – Distance or Self-Funded:** MS in Entrepreneurship was added with an online, self-funded component.
- 6. Modification to the certificate in Sustainable Development Practice (#9919), administratively approved for Spring 2015.**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:21 p.m.