

**MINUTES  
GRADUATE COUNCIL  
April 16, 2015  
1:00 P.M.**

**264 GRINTER HALL CONFERENCE ROOM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dr. R. Paul Duncan, Acting Chair; Dr. Nancy Fichtman Dana; Dr. Amir Erez; Dr. Ann Horgas; Dr. Christopher Janelle; Dr. Ellen Martin; Dr. Heather McAuslane; Dr. Cindy Prins; Dr. Connie Shehan; Ms. Courtney Reijo (GSC); Mr. Nathan Blinn (GSC alternate)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dr. Henry Frierson, Chair; Dr. Kevin Orr; Dr. Joanna Peris; Dr. Dietmar Siemann; Dr. Pamela Soltis.

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Ms. Sarah Barker (College of Pharmacy, Distance Ed.), Dr. Wesley Bolch (College of Engineering), Mr. Rick Bryant (Admissions), Ms. Alana Christou (Medical Sciences – Health Outcomes & Policy), Mr. Rajeeb Das (Office of Institutional Assessment), Dr. Joseph Geunes (Industrial Systems Engineering), Dr. Juan Gilbert (CISE), Ms. Mary Ann Hagler (Office of the Registrar), Dr. Amanda Hodges (DPM, Entomology & Nematology), Mr. Brian Marchman (Distance & Continuing Education), Dr. Corene Matyas (Geography), Dr. Juan-Carlos Molleda (Journalism & Communication), Dr. Keith Muller (Medical Sciences – Health Outcomes & Policy), Mr. Steve Pritz (Registrar), Dr. Debbie Treise (Journalism & Communication), Mr. Mark Zakshevsky (Distance & Continuing Education)

**STAFF PRESENT:** Ms. Gann Enholm, Dr. Rhonda Moraca, Ms. Caitlin Nelson (recording), Mr. Robert Parker, Ms. Stacy Wallace.

Meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m.

**I. ACTION ITEMS**

1. **Minutes from the March 19, 2015, Graduate Council meeting** (Enclosure 1). Motion to approve was made, seconded, and voted unanimously.

**CURRICULUM MODIFICATIONS:**

2. **Proposal from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences for a modification of the curriculum of a major for the Doctor of Plant Medicine (#9733).** Dr. Amanda Hodges was present for discussion (Enclosure 2). Dr. Duncan summarized: This modification is to align the curriculum with national expectations and to reflect the fact that many of these courses are offered online. Dr. Hodges: We are proposing a track for both Hybrid and Distance. No further discussion. Motion to approve was made, seconded, and voted unanimously. Effective Fall 2016.
3. **Proposal from the College of Medicine for a modification of a concentration in Health Outcomes & Policy for the M.S. in Medical Sciences (#10167).** Ms. Alana Christou and Dr. Keith Muller were present for discussion (Enclosure 3). Dr. Duncan summarized: These are non-trivial changes to an existing program, but they are not radical changes either. Ms. Christou: These are fairly new

programs, and we have realized we wanted to strengthen the methods content – and to account for those changes we have made other changes as well. We better align the credits between the masters and doctoral programs for those students who want to continue on to Ph.D. We show a slight increase in credits for both, and it aligns us better with similar programs across the nation. Dr. Muller: Faculty were concerned about methodological preparation so we decided to add statistics courses. No further discussion. Motion to approve was made, seconded, and voted unanimously. Effective Fall 2015.

4. **Proposal from the College of Medicine for a modification of a concentration in Health Outcomes & Policy for the Ph.D. in Medical Sciences (#10166).** Ms. Alana Christou and Dr. Keith Muller were present for discussion (Enclosure 4). No discussion. Motion to approve was made, seconded, and voted unanimously. Effective Fall 2015.

#### CONCENTRATIONS:

5. **Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Geography Department to enter into the Climate Science concentration as a secondary concentration for the Master and Doctorate degrees (#10135).** Dr. Corene Matyas was present for discussion (Enclosure 5). Dr. Matyas: I teach a number of classes in climatology, so my students would be interested in this new concentration, and the focus is not just in physical sciences but social sciences as well. We could also do it from the other direction: social sciences students could take our physical science courses. No further discussion. Motion to approve was made, seconded, and voted unanimously. Effective Summer 2015.
6. **Proposal from the Center of Latin American Studies to enter into the Climate Science concentration (#10136) for the Master of Sustainable Development Practice.** Dr. Glenn Galloway was not present for discussion (Enclosure 6). No discussion. Motion to approve was made, seconded, and voted unanimously. Effective Summer 2015.
7. **Proposal from the College of Pharmacy to modify the graduate concentration in Pharmaceutical Chemistry for the M.S. in Pharmaceutical Sciences (#10146).** Ms. Sarah Barker was present for discussion (Enclosure 7). (Note: the agenda and minutes have been revised to reflect correct name of concentration.). Ms. Barker: We are requesting a realignment of our current concentration, with no change in the number of credits. Rather we have moved from having a fixed set of core courses and required courses, to having a set of required courses plus a slate of electives. The purpose of this change is to allow our students to specialize within Pharmaceutical Chemistry.

Question: Is this concentration for working professionals? Is it online?

Answer: The entire program is online.

Q: Is there any concern with this concentration being too diverse?

A: the core curriculum has remained the same – the core courses cover the essential knowledge; the electives are covering the same content as previously but before it was more lock-step. Now we're saying they can choose from a list. Yes, it should still cover essential core requirements.

Motion to approve was made, seconded, and voted unanimously. Effective: Fall 2015.

8. **Proposal from the College of Journalism and Communications for a new concentration in Public Relations and Communication Management to be delivered in Spanish, and for the substitution of the EXADEP test in lieu of the GRE and TOEFL requirements for admission for students in that concentration (#10198).** Dr. Juan-Carlos Molleda and Dr. Debbie Treise were present for discussion (Enclosure 8). Duncan: This is a proposal to offer an existing specialization in a second

mode of delivery (normally that's an information item, if it's moving to online or vice versa). In this case the mode is a second language. This is very innovative, and has created lots of interesting questions about what they want to do and how we can do it. The college has been very responsive to all those questions. The only thing that we want council to be aware of is: that the decision Council makes now will apply to things later.

Dr. Molleda: Every course is already taught in English in the existing specialization. The faculty that will be approached to teach are already in the U.S. The EXADEP is offered by the same company that offers the GRE and TOEFL, and the components are similar. The test includes an ESL component, and this is important because though the delivery mode is in Spanish, most of the materials are in English and of course we conduct university business in English.

Dr. Duncan: There are two separate components to this proposal:

1. To offer the specialization in Spanish (lectures and discussions in Spanish) – they emphasize that this is an online self-funded activity that is targeted to people residing in Spanish-speaking nations who are seeking credentials for writing careers.
2. In order to evaluate candidates for admission, to use the EXADEP as a more appropriate testing device.

Discussion:

Question: Other than precedent setting, are there downsides to doing this?

Duncan: There are complications: university policy says that UF courses are taught in English. That policy will have to be revisited and perhaps adjusted. It gets down to what constitutes a course – in this case the syllabus and discussion are in Spanish, but readings are in English. So what then? These will have to be clarified. Also, the university conducts business in English – can we be confident that students who are seeking this training will be able to manage the rest of the interface in English – application, transcript, degree, etc. Those questions have been explored and understood, and we will have deal with the consequences.

Q: Do students have to apply in English?

A: Yes. EXADEP has both Spanish and English facility scoring.

Q: So is there a particular score you're looking for?

A: Yes, they are going to be similar to the ones we request for GRE and TOEFL. EXADEP has good tool for seeing quartiles and comparative scores.

Q: The university policy, how does that apply for language courses?

A: There is an explicit foreign language exemption.

Q: You have the same English-language courses in a specialization?

A: Yes, these all exist in English already, the objectives and assessment will be the same.

Q: These will not be faculty at UF?

A: In the college we have three including myself [Molleda] that are bilingual; we have an adjunct faculty member teaching online who is bilingual; we have three former Ph.D. students and couple professionals who are willing to teach.

Q: Course numbers are the same?

A: Yes.

Q: So the content is still in English, but discussion is in Spanish?

A: Yes.

Q: How will these students manage their requirements?

A: The target audience is working professionals, and in addition to that there are many tools for translation. Things are changing so rapidly that technology, resources, etc. are available to make this happen.

Q: Is there a precedent for this?

A: FIU offers a degree in Spanish, so we aren't in completely new territory.

Mr. Steve Pritz (Registrar's office): I may have misunderstood, but the test that they will take will be able to allow university to determine competency in reading English?

A: Yes.

SP: Speaking English?

A: This test does have a verbal component, but we are more interested in written.

SP: They are going to need to speak English unless the College will have an interface with campus at large?

A: The Director will be bilingual and staff will be hired as well.

SP: So like many other distance programs, there is somebody who can assist students with campus business.

A: In fact, we already have this experience. I am director of another concentration with a cohort from Brazil, and we have worked with them successfully to facilitate their work.

Mr. Rick Bryant (Admissions): The office isn't set up to identify a concentration instead of a major code, so we won't know the difference between these students and other applicants, so we will be looking for GRE / TOEFL test. We would need to communicate with the department and we would have to submit the application through the Graduate School as a conditional admission.

Duncan: We have started to work through the logistics, because the college will receive the scores. [The Graduate School] will follow a similar process for conditional admits and will turn to college for those scores and assessment.

RB: They can put a message in a data field, and they will have to ID these students.

Duncan: This is all because there is no data field in which to record these scores as of yet. Dr. Treise is here representing the college to affirm that any additional expense will be covered by college.

Molleda: We want to uphold the standards of the University of Florida, because this will be a UF degree – this is, in fact, the most important aspect for those candidates. We want to be sure that in all messages that UF conducts business in English. This is something we have thought through carefully.

Q: What happens if a student applies for another degree, say the Ph.D.?

A: If they wanted to apply for the Ph.D. they would still need GRE.

Q: I was thinking about other institutions – they don't know the degree was not conducted in English and may waive standard exams unknowingly.

Duncan: We have spoken with Cheryl Gater and Tim Brophy in the SACS office and this item will need SACS approval because of the language issues. Dr. Molleda and Dr. Treise are aware that even following this meeting there will be additional requirements and approvals beyond Graduate Council.

Q: Has there been pushback from higher up? Will there be issues with FIU?

A: We have a good relationship with them and we can have a direct conversation with them if something comes up.

Motion to approve was made, seconded and approved. Proposed effective date of Fall 2015, pending further approvals from SACSCOC and Provost.

## **TERMINATION:**

### **9. Proposal from the College of Engineering to terminate the Industrial and Systems Engineering Engineer degree program (#10026).** Dr. Joseph Geunes was present for discussion (Enclosure 9).

Geunes: The Engineer degree has been around for 17 years and it was intended to be somewhere between the masters and Ph.D. We have not had a graduate since I started here. We have had two who started it, but neither has finished it. Currently we don't recruit or receive applications for the program. There is no brand recognition inside or outside for the degree. So it became something we kept track of but weren't using, so we feel it is time to finally discontinue.

Duncan: this existed across the many departments, and throughout the years the Engineer degree has been disappearing. They've been knocking them off and this is the last one.

Q: The students who didn't finish, did they switch? A: one student didn't make it in Ph.D. and then got a job offer. The other student was employed and a former master's graduate who stayed employed and didn't follow through.

A motion was made to approve, seconded, and voted unanimously. Proposed effective date of Summer 2015, pending further approvals.

## **DEGREE:**

### **10. Proposal from the College of Engineering for a new Ph.D. degree in Human-Centered**

**Computing (#9694).** Dr. Juan Gilbert was present for discussion (Enclosure 10). Dr. Duncan: We met with Dr. Juan Gilbert last month during our discussion session. This new degree program raised all kinds of questions at all kinds of levels and there has been lots of discussion with the Provost and other offices. Both the research group and college have been very responsive to staff in putting this together. Dr. Gilbert: HCC is relatively new field that deals with people and technology. This degree is inspired by bringing together three aspects: design, implementation, and evaluation. New HCC programs were started to train people to work across that pipeline. We are now the largest group in the [CISE] department, at 9 faculty, with two more spots open. Students have found us and are asking for the Ph.D. We want to be the next institution in the nation to offer degree, and to get into the national rankings. Dr. Gilbert presented a survey done of Gainesville companies and the user experience is the #1 requirement. So there is a huge opportunity for our students.

Q: In the table the FTE for faculty are quite low – are they doing something else?

A: These numbers were calculated by staff in our department. Our grants people assigned those numbers, but the idea is that they will teach courses that satisfy both HCC and CS requirements. We are shared in the whole department.

Gilbert: Can we transfer students in before accepting [external] online applications?

Duncan: The Graduate School can probably figure out how to do that if we have some safety net in place to cover them in case the approval process is drawn out.

Duncan: Please note that this proposal will require approval at BOG and it's got some steps to go beyond this point.

Motion to approve was made, seconded, and voted unanimously. Proposed effective date of Fall 2016, pending further approvals.

## **II. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**11. Proposal from the College of Pharmacy for a graduate certificate title change from “Death Investigation” to “Forensic Death Investigation” (#10147).** This item was administratively approved for Summer 2015 (Enclosure 11).

**12. Proposal to change the Cell Engineering & Regenerative Medicine graduate certificate from being administered by the Department of Biomedical Engineering to the Institute for Cell Engineering & Regenerative Medicine in the College of Engineering (#10127).** [Note: the agenda and minutes were revised during the meeting to correct the explanation of this proposal.] This item was administratively approved for Fall 2015 (Enclosure 12).

13. **CIP code change from 51.1201 to 26.9999 for the graduate certificate in Aging and Geriatric that was previously approved by Graduate Council in January, 2014.** (Enclosure 13).
14. **Graduate Programs – Distance and Self-Funded** (No new items)
15. **Update about Graduate Council ballot 2015-2018.** Dr. Duncan: Voting is under way and will be open for one more week. We will have results at the next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.