

**GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 21, 2016**  
**1:00 P.M.**

**264 GRINTER HALL CONFERENCE ROOM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dr. Paul Duncan (chair); Dr. Tom Frazer; Dr. Christopher Hass; Dr. Joanna Peris; Dr. Cindy Prins; Dr. Dietmar Siemann; Dr. Pamela Soltis; Dr. Jane Southworth; Mr. Nathan Blinn (GSC rep); Ms. Mirna Amaya (GSC alternate)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dr. Henry Frierson (chair); Dr. Nancy Fichtman Dana; Dr. Ann Horgas; Dr. Mahendrarajah Nimalendran; Dr. Connie Shehan

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Dr. Charles Kibert (M.E. Rinker, Sr. School of Construction Management); Mr. Brian Marchman (Distance and Continuing Education); Dr. Margaret Portillo (College of Design, Construction and Planning); Mr. Mark Zakshevsky (Distance and Continuing Education)

**STAFF PRESENT:** Ms. Gann Enholm; Ms. Jenn Hubbs; Ms. Caroline Lentz; Mr. Matt Mitterko; Dr. Rhonda Moraca; Ms. Stacy Wallace

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m.

**I. ACTION ITEMS:**

1. **Minutes from the December 17, 2015 Graduate Council meeting** (Enclosure 1).  
A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

**CERTIFICATE:**

2. **Proposal from the College of Engineering to close the graduate certificate in Environmental Policy and Management (#10343).** Dr. Duncan explained that the certificate is being closed due to losing faculty and declining interest. There are currently 6 students in the graduate certificate program.

**GC Member:** Is this a situation where they are closing the certificate due to retiring faculty? Do they have to give up the program, or are they not interested in continuing the graduate certificate program even if there were opportunities?

**Dr. Duncan:** That's an interesting point, but this particular request appears to be a normal evolution.

**GC Member:** When certificates like this close, should other departments be notified? Similar departments may have been interested in offering this graduate certificate but couldn't because one already existed.

**Dr. Duncan:** The Graduate School keeps a list of active graduate certificates on our website, and we also include this information in the Graduate Council minutes. We do not currently have a way to determine what units may be interested.

**GC Member:** Are there regular postings of what is decided in these Graduate Council meetings?

**Dr. Duncan:** We maintain a list of active certificates that is updated after each meeting with Graduate Council decisions, but that is a passive process. We're not actively pushing information to the individual units.

**GC Member:** This is not a concentration they are trying to close; this is a certificate which is more department-specific.

A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

## **MAJOR:**

- 3. Proposal from the College of Design, Construction and Planning for a new major in Construction Productivity for the Master of International Construction Management degree in the M.E. Rinker, Sr., School of Construction Management (#10367).** Dr. Kibert explained that their degree program is the oldest distance delivery program on campus and has been in existence since 1997 or 1998, pre-Sakai. The Singapore Building Construction Authority (BCA) contacted the College of Design, Construction and Planning and wanted to create a cooperative relationship with the University of Florida. Construction Productivity is the endeavor to make more for less cost and more profit. This program will partner adjunct professors in an interactive program. The cohort will be fifteen students and two cohorts will run simultaneously, so there would be thirty students enrolled in the program at a time. The self-funded proposal will likely be approved by July. Two additional courses have been created for this program. In Singapore, the learning would be done via vector kit onsite and through modular building.

**GC Member:** Please explain the courses that would make up the major.

**Dr. Kibert:** We will select from a pool of about fifteen or sixteen existing ICM courses, and some we will create with BCA.

**Dr. Portillo:** Of the thirty-three credits required for the degree, six will come from the undeveloped courses.

**GC Member:** Is this degree program going to benefit UF and students? Developing curriculum just because someone outside of UF makes a request may not be in the best interest of the university.

**Dr. Duncan:** These types of partnerships are not unheard of. One of the most well-known is the advanced educational programming partnership between the College of Business Administration and the Harris Corporation. So, these are all fair questions for council members to ask.

**Dr. Kibert:** The BCA actually wanted a whole new degree program to be developed, but we said no. This new major is right up the alley of where our program is already headed.

**GC Member:** What are the benefits beyond Singapore?

**Dr. Kibert:** This is going to be a test with Singapore in order to gauge demand. We had 150 people attend the information session on this so we know there is great interest. This will be a part of a self-funded program, so we are keeping it modest and select. The biggest hurdle will be how unique this program is with regard to the semester differences between UF and Singapore.

**GC Member:** Is this only an endeavor to make more money? Or will it enhance what UF has to offer?

**Dr. Kibert:** We hope that it does both.

**Mr. Blinn:** As a student of this college, the courses are ones that the student are requesting and want to take.

**GC Member:** But how would the courses that meet March through July work?

**Mr. Blinn:** The courses would be tested in Singapore then incorporated here.

**GC Member:** This program is not strictly to make money?

**Dr. Portillo:** We have strong industry relationships, unlike some of the other colleges on campus who aren't as industry-driven (e.g. Humanities, Liberal Arts and Sciences). These partnership programs maintain our currency, place students well, and provide them with opportunities.

**Dr. Kibert:** We want to roll ICM into large construction companies that have university structures, to be both continuing education and part of a degree program.

**Dr. Duncan:** This request is unusual enough that council's questions are appropriate ones to ask. It's worth mentioning that this major is associated with a program that aligns with a self-funded program.

**GC Member:** What would be the impact on other programs?

**Dr. Kibert:** BCA is a preeminent organization in high demand. They were previously working with the University of Nottingham but wanted to work with UF instead. Our program is very well-known in Singapore.

A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

#### **GRADUATE FACULTY POLICY:**

4. **Graduate Faculty Policy revision/update.** Dr. Paul Duncan was present for discussion. Dr. Duncan reminded the council that the topic was previously discussed at the December Graduate Council meeting and that he hoped that it could now move forward to action. He then explained the various degrees of approval that Graduate Council could give the policy.

**Dr. Duncan:** In conversations with many of you, two issues have arisen - duration of the appointment, and categories of faculty who should be ineligible for graduate faculty status. With regard to duration, the question is if we should be explicit in the policy about how long an appointee to the graduate faculty should retain that status. The policy could impose a five or ten year cycle, be decided at tenure review, or could be left up to the departments to decide. If the decision is left to the departments, The Graduate School would take steps to remind the departments to have their own policies in place. For the various categories of faculty, anyone could come forward for a "by exception" ruling if they were in a category normally considered ineligible for graduate faculty status. So the question is if duration is best left up to the units.

**GC Member:** I have spoken to departments who had no idea they had the power to remove members from graduate faculty status, so the departments would have to be notified that they need to have their own policies in place.

**Dr. Duncan:** I think many units thought it was like being appointed to a federal judgeship. Departments should be very thoughtful about the policy in their own

context and what it would mean to name someone as graduate faculty, and what it would mean to remove them.

**GC Member:** A 2/3 majority vote is needed to become graduate faculty, so why don't we say that's what is needed to remove someone?

**Dr. Duncan:** There is no problem with that. But, even with that there would still be unique situations. We could make our own policy more explicit, and request that the departments do likewise.

**GC Member:** The departments should decide but should have a clear policy that they follow and enforce themselves.

**GC Member:** It can be a very contentious thing to remove someone from graduate faculty status and put someone else on.

**GC Member:** The fact is that some graduate faculty do less research and more teaching but give and grade comprehensive exams.

**Dr. Duncan:** That would be a privilege issue.

**GC Member:** The departments should be reminded that this affects the metric, but faculty are still needed to deliver these non-thesis courses.

**Dr. Duncan:** The departments could have defaults that differ, but their own individual policies should be reasonable, created with faculty input and equitably applied.

**GC Member:** Will anyone be able to judge what the departments are doing?

**Dr. Duncan:** The Graduate School should be made aware if the departments have policies in place. At the Graduate School level we're going to choose to appoint or not, but everything else would be up to the departments.

**Dr. Duncan:** Now there is the eligibility issue. The two categories that raise questions are the true adjunct professors and the lecturer series.

**GC Member:** Are the adjuncts part of the Collective Bargaining Unit?

**Dr. Duncan:** Adjuncts are not, but lecturers in colleges that are part of the Collective Bargaining Unit are. We get a trivial number of nominations of adjunct faculty. Then, we review their credentials. The lecturer series is a very large and very active group. There is area for interpersonal difficulties, particularly in that professors are loathe to insult colleagues by telling them that they cannot serve on committees.

**GC Member:** If a professor does 100% teaching, they have no time for research.

**GC Member:** We have a program in which 50% of the courses are taught by non-tenured faculty.

**Dr. Duncan:** In the past the two classifications of "Graduate Faculty" and of "Doctoral Research Faculty" was a way to provide graduate faculty status for comprehensive exams, and committee participation, but not service as chair of Ph.D. committees. There will certainly be a variation in the level of scrutiny given to these nominations. We are thoughtful about scrutinizing the lecturer series nominations, but the question remains if we should explicitly deny them. Or we could strike adjuncts but leave the lecturer series and reiterate to the departments their responsibility.

**Dr. Duncan:** With these provisos, we need to determine if we should endorse the policy as it is now or if the Council would like to see the policy and its revisions again. Bear in mind that this will not be an overnight process but will take about six months to implement.

A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE:**

5. **Establish a nominating committee to create the ballot for new members to serve on Graduate Council for 2016-2019.** The members rotating off of the Council are Dr. Ann Horgas (College of Nursing); Dr. Cindy Prins (College of Public Health and Health Professions); Dr. Dietmar Siemann (College of Medicine); Dr. Pamela Soltis (Florida Museum of Natural History); Mr. Nathan Blinn (GSC representative). Dr. Duncan announced that these members would be appointed to the ad-hoc committee and asked them to think about their network and colleagues would like to nominate. He asked for a varied group of nominations in order to give a wide representation of campus on Graduate Council and notified the ad-hoc committee that he would be in touch with them regarding the process.

## **II. INFORMATION ITEM:**

6. **Proposal from the College of Public Health and Human Professions for a modification of the curriculum of the Biostatistics Ph.D. to remove STA 7346 from the required course list and instead require an additional elective be taken (#10638).** Dr. Duncan announced that this item was administratively approved.
7. **Graduate Programs – Distance and/or Self-Funded** (No new items). Mr. Marchman reported that there are several of these in the pipeline though there are none new this month.

**GC Member:** Are we going to have a further discussion about the dual degree programs?

**Dr. Duncan:** We anticipate having the final exam policy as a discussion item in February and as an action item in March, so we could have the dual degree topic as a discussion item in March.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.