

GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
February 18, 2016
1:00 P.M.

264 GRINTER HALL CONFERENCE ROOM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Paul Duncan (chair); Dr. Nancy Fichtman Dana; Dr. Tom Frazer; Dr. Christopher Hass; Dr. Ann Horgas; Dr. Cindy Prins; Dr. John Shea; Dr. Connie Shehan; Dr. Dietmar Siemann; Dr. Jane Southworth; Mr. Nathan Blinn (GSC rep); Ms. Mirna Amaya (GSC alternate)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Henry Frierson (chair); Dr. Mahendrarajah Nimalendran

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. David Arnold (College of Engineering); Dr. Heather Gibson (College of Health and Human Performance); Dr. Michael Sagas (College of Health and Human Performance); Mr. Mark Zakshevsky (Distance and Continuing Education)

STAFF PRESENT: Ms. Gann Enholm; Ms. Jenn Hubbs; Ms. Caroline Lentz; Mr. Matt Mitterko; Mr. Robert Parker; Ms. Stacy Wallace

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

Dr. Duncan informed council that the nominating committee has been actively looking for their replacements and now Graduate School staff, under the advisement of Dr. Rhonda Moraca, will verify that those suggested for Graduate Council meet the requirements and that they have interest in becoming a member. A proposed slate for an eventual ballot will be proposed at the March Graduate Council meeting. Also, there will be two discussion items in March-one is the discussion about dual degrees, specifically ones that lead to the student earning two PhDs. The other is the discussion and eventual action on final exams, specifically on committee structure, etc. for non-thesis master's degrees. A document on the proposed final exam policy will be distributed to Graduate Council members before the March meeting.

I. ACTION ITEMS:

1. **Minutes from the January 21, 2016 Graduate Council meeting** (Enclosure 1).
A motion to approve was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

CERTIFICATE:

2. **Proposal from the College of Engineering for a new graduate certificate in Microsystem Technology (#10342).** Dr. David Arnold was present for discussion (Enclosure 2). Dr. Arnold explained that this will be a graduate certificate made up of nine credit hours, and the curriculum will include microactuators, microsensors, microfluidic devices, micropower systems, microoptical devices, and other

microelectromechanical systems-essentially the technology found inside devices such as cell phones.

GC Member: How many students will be eligible for this graduate certificate *de facto* versus how many will receive it because they will change their plan of study to earn it?

Dr. Arnold: That's a hard question to answer since we haven't had this yet, so we haven't marketed it. But we don't anticipate many students will change their plan of study to earn it, since the courses are already part of the Electrical and Computer Engineering program. This certificate will be more for students to self-specialize and will encourage students to choose a focus. We hope to pull students from across the College of Engineering and have this be an interdisciplinary graduate certificate. A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

MAJOR:

- 3. Proposal from the College of Health and Human Performance to change the name for the MS degree program from Recreation, Parks and Tourism to Tourism and Recreation Management (#10642).** Dr. Michael Sagas and Dr. Heather Gibson were present for discussion (Enclosure 3). Dr. Gibson explained that the request for the name change is the result of the extensive review of their curriculum over the last two years. Master's students have shifted away from identifying with the "parks" portion of the major name to more of the "tourism/recreation management" side. In reviewing peer programs, that seems to be the norm. And, this change would allow the master's program to align with the undergraduate program, which made the change a few years ago. The new name would really better fit what the students are looking for.

GC Member: You're adding a management component, so are there courses to go with that?

Dr. Gibson: Yes, there are. There are courses already in place that use these theoretical concepts, and the term "management" is used broadly to encompass the leadership, marketing, and programming skills already taught in the curriculum and in the knowledge our students have.

GC Member: Have you gotten any feedback from students regarding this change? Will this change affect any current students?

Dr. Gibson: This change will take place in the fall. Most students sort of invent their degree name anyway depending on which component they identify with most. Students have communicated that they have not identified with the name "parks" for quite some time.

Dr. Duncan: The current students will not lose anything or feel imposed upon by the "management" term.

Dr. Gibson: Our students primarily have career aspirations of management in hospitality or recreation settings.

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

II. INFORMATION ITEM:

4. Graduate Programs – Distance and/or Self-Funded (No new items). Mark Zakshevsky reported that there should be some new items next month.

III. INFORMAL DISCUSSION TOPICS:

- a. **GC Member:** When a certificate is given to a student for courses that are already a part of their curriculum, what is the value in that for the students or UF?

Dr. Duncan: For the school-not much. For the students who flock to these graduate certificate programs in order to enhance their C.V.s or resumes, they do believe they have value. There are no rules about how many a student can receive, but there are some constraints on double-dipping. We would worry if a student got 3 certificates, because we typically see students get two as a Ph.D. student and one as a master's student.

GC Member: It strengthens the portfolio, but why should a student get a certificate as well? Isn't that belittling the intent of the certificate?

Dr. Duncan: This is similar to the struggle between majors and minors in that you can't minor in your major. There are similar fundamental policies in place for these graduate certificates. Most graduate certificates are targeted to off-campus programs or students who are not currently in the discipline of the certificate. And students do not get the certificates by happenstance-they have to apply for it.

GC Member: Is there a way to gauge how many students apply for certificates in the same area as their degree discipline?

Dr. Duncan: We could talk to the Registrar and do counts that way. But, I wouldn't anticipate it would be that many since these certificates don't increase marketability in the same way degrees do. Many of these certificates existed before the application existed and are part of a large and complex program's academic plan. This is a great question, and we'll do what we can to find out the answer.

- b. **GC Member:** I have a question about the doctoral dissertation, specifically the three manuscript option. We previously worked with the Graduate School, but there are no guidelines listed in the Catalog.

Dr. Duncan: There is variation, but we don't get much angst from the units. The issues in the three manuscript model is that many are constructed as professional journal articles and a chapter goes to the journal under co-authorship, which is the same as getting together afterward to co-publish nationally.

GC Member: There is an issue with copyrights too. One format of the dissertation must be accepted prior to graduation, but the other two do not require that. There is also an issue with formatting, because a student has to pull out references, etc. prior to submission.

Dr. Duncan: We do grapple with this, because it is highly decentralized at UF, and there is autonomy for the individual units. There are times when portions of the dissertation have been previously published, and in that case you can't go back.

GC Member: The dissertation is a partial fulfillment of degree. If a unit wanted to accept a peer reviewed article in lieu of a dissertation, could it be up the unit to decide?

Dr. Duncan: No, that wouldn't be permissible within the current framework.

GC Member: There are times that students submit chapters that have already been published.

Dr. Duncan: There are students who sit ABD while they wait for the publication of a journal.

Ms. Wallace: There is a forty-four page guide that explains the three article dissertation and how to address previously published articles.

Dr. Duncan: We can plan for Stacy and her team to put together a ten minute or so slideshow in April or May about the current rules for dissertations, at least as a starting point for further discussion.

- c. **GC Member:** Why are there some Graduate School awards that are restricted to non-STEM students?

Dr. Duncan: Some awards are restricted as a matter of policy. For all awards, we expect a letter of support from the supervisory committee chair affirming progress on the work, and anticipated completion. Such commitments may be easier to express in the case of STEM disciplines particularly if the data collection and analysis has been completed. The supervisory committee chair's letter is a critical piece of the package in our review of award applications.

GC Member: Some students don't have other sources for funding their dissertations.

Dr. Duncan: These awards are mainly to help those students who get to the ABD stage and have achieved candidacy but then cannot finish for financial reasons. And it does help tremendously. Most of the students who receive these awards do finish, so we have a high success rate with these.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:33 p.m.