

GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
November 17, 2016
1:00 P.M.

GRINTER HALL ROOM 264

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Henry Frierson (Chair); Dr. Karen Bjorndal; Dr. Nancy Fichtman Dana; Dr. Tom Frazer; Dr. Christopher Hass; Dr. Raymond Issa; Dr. Joanna Peris; Dr. John Shea; Dr. Jane Southworth; Ms. Mirna Amaya (GSC rep)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. David Bloom; Dr. Mahendrarajah Nimalendran; Dr. Bruce MacFadden; Dr. Connie Shehan; Ms. Karastin Katusin (GSC alternate)

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. Timothy Brophy (Office of the Provost); Ms. Suzie Burns (Office of Admissions); Dr. Jason Byrd (College of Medicine); Dr. Holly Lane (College of Education); Dr. Brian Marchman (Distance and Continuing Education); Mr. Steve Pritz (Office of the University Registrar); Dr. Thomas Vickroy (College of Veterinary Medicine); Dr. Nancy Waldron (College of Education); Dr. Bernard Whiting (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences)

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Paul Duncan; Ms. Gann Enholm; Ms. Caroline Lentz; Mr. Matt Mitterko; Dr. Rhonda Moraca; Ms. Patricia Van Wert; Ms. Stacy Wallace

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

I. ACTION ITEMS:

1. **Minutes from the October 20, 2016 Graduate Council meeting.** A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

CERTIFICATE:

2. **Proposal from the College of Education for a new graduate certificate in Dyslexia Assessment and Intervention (#10763).** Dr. Holly Lane and Dr. Nancy Waldron were present for discussion.

GC Member: Are there already applicants? How many do you expect in your applicant pool?

Dr. Lane: We attended the International Dyslexia Association annual conference last month, and we had around forty inquiries. There are also state lawmakers pushing for state funding in this area, which could raise that number.

Dr. Frierson: This is in Special Education, correct?

Dr. Lane: Yes.

GC Member: An effective date of spring 2017 is proposed.

Dr. Lane: We plan to have a pilot group begin in spring. Right now, faculty are working with video production and the components that will need to be in place before we begin. We are flexible for the start date. We plan to have a full launch in fall 2017, but will have a pilot group in spring as a dry run.

GC Member: What number of students do you anticipate for the pilot group?

Dr. Lane: Around ten to fifteen students. Proposed courses for the certificate are currently going through the approval process simultaneously.

A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously with a spring 2017 effective date.

CONCENTRATION:

3. **Proposal from the College of Medicine for a new graduate concentration in Forensic Medicine for the Master of Science in Medical Sciences (#11060).** Dr. Jason Byrd was present for discussion.

GC Member: This doesn't pertain to this request necessarily, but what is the difference between a graduate certificate and a concentration?

Dr. Duncan: Historically, concentrations have been a focused area of two or three courses related to the degree program, with a narrower and more intense focus and as part of the bigger degree program. For example, you could be earning a Ph.D. in history with a concentration in European history. Recently, we have broadened the definition of a concentration to include many diverse programs under the one umbrella major. This is a degree through the College of Medicine, which has one major and the concentrations under that single major look, in many ways like their own majors. An example of a concentration course load is ten courses, three credits each. The concentrations appear on the transcript and are tied to the major. Graduate certificates are stand-alone and are listed on the transcript but are not attached to the major.

GC Member: Is there a way to see the courses that make up each concentration?

Ms. Wallace: The concentrations are all listed in the catalog page, on the graduate degrees page and on the individual program pages. The courses that align to the concentration could be listed separately pending verification in the program files.

Ms. Enholm: Concentrations are awarded by governing bodies and are tied to a degree major. Concentrations cannot be stand-alone in the same way that graduate certificates can.

Dr. Brophy: From a SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) accreditation standpoint, new concentrations do not require SACS approval.

Dr. Duncan: The concentration being proposed will be online and self-supported, so there are more review processes that have to occur. The approval today will be contingent on the other approvals.

GC Member: This is an online master's program with a focus on forensic medicine instead of science, so it is different than Dr. Ian Tebbett's program.

Dr. Byrd: Forensic medicine has more to do with pathology, specifically the course, manner and mechanism of death. Everything else is forensic science, such as the study of fingerprints.

GC Member: I'm surprised this is online. This seems like it would require hands-on learning.

Dr. Byrd: We do a lot online already for our veterinary forensics program, such as we require students to attend a necropsy. In the same way, the students in the new concentration program would have to attend an autopsy. We do mock crime scenes and, while the study is self-directed by the student, they do internships and their mentors have to vouch for their hours. The student has to write a paper that serves as their capstone accreditation for the program.

GC Member: Are you targeting individuals enrolled in other degree programs?

Dr. Byrd: For example, Saint Louis University offers a medicolegal death investigation course, so we would pick up the students who need recertification or continuing education.

GC Member: Would the concentration show up on the transcript?

Dr. Duncan: Yes, the student would receive a Master of Science in Medical Sciences with a concentration in Forensic Medicine.

Dr. Byrd: To advance in a forensics career, you have to have a graduate degree, so

there is incentive in the workforce for this concentration.

A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously with a summer 2017 effective date.

NEW DEPARTMENT:

4. **Proposal from the College of Veterinary Medicine to create a new Department of Comparative, Diagnostic and Population Medicine (#11082).** Dr. Thomas Vickroy was present for discussion.

Dr. Duncan: This request is not typical, in that the College of Veterinary Medicine has college-level programs. We have received reassurance that graduate students, graduate faculty, etc. will not be impacted by this organizational change.

Dr. Vickroy: We have one program in Veterinary Medical Sciences and all concentrations are under that major.

GC Member: This change will not impact the faculty?

Dr. Vickroy: We do not have any faculty currently mentoring Ph.D. students, so there will not be any students caught in the transition.

GC Member: What about external members of committees?

Dr. Vickroy: This won't affect them because they can serve outside of their departments.

GC Member: Are you currently looking for a chair for this new department?

Dr. Vickroy: The chair of the Infectious Diseases and Pathology department is stepping down. We are in contact with the Provost's office to determine if we can start the search process before the Board of Trustees approval, which should occur in March 2017. If we can begin the process now, we will create a search and vetting committee. The faculty will stay with their current units until then.

GC Member: There appear to be some faculty in tenure-accruing lines. How will this affect them?

Dr. Vickroy: We have had discussions with the Provost about this. It depends on where the faculty member is in the process. The faculty member can go forward in their current tenure line until we have this new department, so there is no real impact. There are clinical tenure lines versus the basic science line.

GC Member: I noticed nearly ¼ of the faculty were against this, which seems like a high number.

Dr. Vickroy: Around 22% were against. We did a Qualtrics survey, which did not provide us with specifics on why the faculty were against it. I sent an independent survey, and the concerns were over budgetary concerns and fear of a loss of contact between the clinical and basic science faculty members. The faculty who would be directly impacted voted unanimously. One of the faculty who was against this change has since left.

A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed with nine in favor and one opposing.

DUAL DEGREE:

5. Proposal for a dual degree between the University of Florida and Sapienza – University of Rome. Dr. Bernard Whiting was present for discussion (Enclosure 5).

GC Member: It appears that 57 of the credits would occur in Rome? Almost 2/3?

Dr. Whiting: The credits acquired in Rome are mostly research. All the formal course credits would occur here. The student would continue to be registered while abroad.

GC Member: What is the motivation for this student to receive a dual degree?

Dr. Whiting: This student asked us in 2014 what the possibilities were for a dual degree. Rome is happy to have him work on projects and develop projects. We have been interested in trying a dual degree for some time; ten years ago we were in a collaboration with Paris but not at this level. There was an obstacle with funding.

GC Member: Will most of the credits transfer from UF to Rome?

Dr. Whiting: Rome is not asking for credits. They only ask for validation that the student has suitable qualifications and is ready to do research there. We will write an individual assessment document annually with his mentor, the student himself and UF.

Dr. Duncan: Matt Mitterko has worked through this proposal thoroughly to ensure the student meets all UF requirements. It's Sapienza's choice to bestow another degree.

Dr. Frierson: What is the funding structure?

Dr. Whiting: The student will be on a UF fellowship. After that, Sapienza will support him, and they are anxious to be able to do that.

GC Member: But the student will be enrolled at UF after his fellowship ends. Who will pay for his enrollment?

Dr. Whiting: For conferences the student attends, the money is paid upon receipts to the student. At the end of his fellowship he will be jointly registered. This will be an issue for two semesters, and for one of those he may not be registered. For the other he may come back to finish his degree here.

Dr. Brophy: Would the student earn two degrees or would it be a joint degree?

Dr. Whiting: We discovered that proposing a joint degree is not possible. The student would earn two degrees.

Dr. Brophy: I would suggest speaking to Dr. Margaret Fields (Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Art and Sciences) or Ms. Cheryl Gater (Office of the Provost) regarding notification deadlines for dual degrees. Our accreditors have different requirements for these proposals. There are other steps to be aware of for dual degree requests.

Dr. Frierson: If this proposal passes here there still has to be SACS approval. A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

II. INFORMATION ITEM:

6. Graduate Programs-Distance and/or Self-Funded (no new items).

Meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.