

GRADUATE COUNCIL AGENDA

February 15, 2018

1:00 PM

GRINTER HALL ROOM 110

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Henry Frierson (Chair), Dr. David Bloom, Dr. Kendal Broad-Wright, Dr. Warren Dixon, Dr. Tom Frazer, Dr. James McLeskey, Dr. Jane Southworth, Ms. Madeline Sciullo (GSC rep), Mr. Seth Assan (GSC alternate)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Karen Bjorndal, Dr. Christopher Hass, Dr. Raymond Issa, Dr. Bruce MacFadden, Dr. Mahendrarajah Nimalendran, Dr. Sihong Song

GUESTS PRESENT: Ms. Suzie Burns (Office of Admissions), Dr. Christy Carter (Institute on Aging), Dr. Lily Elefteriadou (Civil Engineering), Dr. Nam-Ho Kim (Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering), Dr. Thomas Knight (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences), Dr. Brian Marchman (Distance and Continuing Education), Dr. Bernard Okech (College of Public Health and Health Professions), Mr. Steve Pritz (Office of the University Registrar)

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Paul Duncan, Ms. Gann Enholm, Mr. Matt Mitterko, Dr. Judy Traveis, Ms. Stacy Wallace

The meeting was called to order at 12:59 p.m.

I. ACTION ITEMS:

1. **Minutes from the December 14, 2017 Graduate Council meeting.** A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

CONCENTRATION:

2. **Proposal from the College of Public Health and Health Professions for a new graduate concentration in Gero-Epidemiology for the PhD in epidemiology (#11690).** Dr. Christy Carter was present for discussion. Dr. Carter confirmed that all courses in proposed curriculum are all still being offered. A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

DEGREE PROGRAMS:

3. **Proposal from the College of Public Health and Health Professions for a modification to the credit hours for the Master of Health Science degree with a major in one health (#11793).** Dr. Bernard Okech was present for discussion. Dr. Duncan clarified this is a very minor change. It reduces the semester credit hour requirement from 40 to 39 (still substantially above the minimum) by eliminating a requirement that students complete a one-semester-hour course in critical thinking. Program faculty indicate that the material covered in course being eliminated are examined elsewhere in the curriculum, A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.
4. **Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for a modification to the curriculum for the Master of Arts in Economics degree (#12189).** Dr. David Knight was present for discussion.
GC Member: In the justification, it's indicated this is part of a combined degree. It's a full 36 credit hour degree, not a 4+1?
Dr. Knight: This is a change to the master's curriculum overall. We could admit students to the 36 hour degree that would include these changes. We also plan to market the degree as a 3.5 plus 1.5. Students in that program will do the full 36 hours by starting in spring of their 4th year as undergraduates, and will graduate at the end of their 5th year.

GC Member: Is the student a Ph.D. student from their first day?

Dr. Knight: They are Ph.D. students from their first day as graduate and are able to apply for the master's degree once they have completed the written qualifying exams and have earned 36 credit hours.

GC Member: If all students did that in two years and then matriculated into the Ph.D. program, their time in the Ph.D. program would be reduced so it affects the metrics.

Dr. Knight: A point of clarification is that in Economics if the student applied to the Ph.D. with or without a master's degree it doesn't change what they have to do at UF. Students start at the same point.

GC Member: Does this change affect current students in the program?

Dr. Knight: These changes make it so current juniors in the undergraduate program could then start a combined degree. The graduate students would not be affected.

GC Member: Please explain the differentiation between the two M.A.s students can pursue. The SLOs seem to be more in-line with the M.A. you're creating rather than the research M.A.

Dr. Knight: This change will not cause problems down the line; the SLOs are written for the existing M.A. Some students apply for the M.A. on the way to the Ph.D. or apply when they decide not to pursue the Ph.D. In terms of career prospects, the SLOs are only slightly different. Most of the SLOs attached to the M.A. are preparing a student to be an economics practitioner rather than an academic researcher.

GC Member: The proposal indicates the 5000-level courses are similar in content to the 7000-level courses. A student could take a 5000-level course but then if they want to go on to the Ph.D. program they can retake the higher level course and it's the same content?

Dr. Knight: It is similar content. For example, with the econometrics course, the 5000-level course would prepare students to do research into what econometrics can do, whereas the 7000-level course would discuss the same models with more rigor. The 5000-level course would teach people how to apply the models but not show them how to change models as the 7000-level courses would. The 5000-level coursework does not satisfy the Ph.D., which is why we are adding 5000-level courses to the master's program.

GC Member: Why is the degree still an M.A. rather than an M.S. or an M.S.E.?

Dr. Knight: When the Economics Department was in the College of Business we operated degree programs in both the College of Business and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. But, in economics there's not a huge distinction between an M.A. and an M.S. Curricula are incredibly consistent between institutions.

GC Member: So students could take master's or Ph.D. courses to satisfy the master's requirements?

Dr. Traveis: Master's students will designate whether they plan to go the applied terminal route or if they will pursue the Ph.D. If they plan to go on to the Ph.D., they will take the 7000-level courses.

Dr. Knight: Student who complete the courses that say "or" in the second column in the proposal would satisfy the same requirements for the M.A. as would the students who were admitted as Ph.D. students. Currently, only 7000-level coursework exists.

GC Member: Can we see the syllabi for the 5000-level and 7000-level courses side-by-side? They look like the same courses with similar titles, and it appears the credit could be double counted.

GC Member: An example of a program that does this in a similar way would be statistics. You could have a sampling design class or sampling theory class.

Dr. Knight: At the undergraduate level, students have to do certain coursework that would make them competitive. We tell them that we require about 10 upper division statistics courses. Students who take the 7000-level courses are those who were admitted with the intention of completing the Ph.D., and those who take the 5000-level courses are those who were admitted with the intention of only completing the master's degree.

Dr. Duncan: If it would be helpful, we can obtain copies of the syllabi for the 5000-level and 7000-level courses.

GC Member: Yes, it would be helpful if the Graduate School could check these.

A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed with one abstention.

Note: As requested, the course syllabi have been submitted and are attached to the program file.

DUAL DEGREES:

- 5. Proposal for a dual degree between the University of Florida and Escola de Engenharia de Sao Carlos da Universidade de Sao Paulo that was tabled at the December 14, 2017 Graduate Council meeting. Dr. Lily Elefteriadou was present for discussion.**

Dr. Duncan: This a proposal that came forward in December and was tabled because of concern regarding the planning stage of dual degree program and how far along the student was.

Dr. Elefteriadou: I met the student at a conference and we began discussing the Ph.D. program. He had already indicated interest in a dual degree. He was accepted and began working with Nancy McIlrath to put paperwork together. He has done a tremendous amount of work already making translations and having documents reviewed here. The process has taken a long time, but the dual degree was the intent when he first applied for his Ph.D. We were already collaborating with Sao Paulo and had that kind of relationship with them. In Brazil, the student is using a unique database with thousands of locations of data that doesn't exist here at UF.

GC Member: What was the timeframe for this?

GC Member: The student began at UF in fall of 2015; he began in Brazil in 2013.

GC Member: I seem to remember our issue last time had to do with the one dissertation requirements. Doesn't UF require two dissertations?

Dr. Duncan: We don't require two. The main question seemed to be about timing. The Graduate Council has typically required the dual degree planning to start early.

GC Member: I do think there was concern about there being one dissertation for two separate Ph.D.'s. In this latest proposal, under section H, the second paragraph states the dual degree will benefit the student's education and ability to produce products. That didn't sound like a description of further research being done at UF. Is there a significant amount of research being done at UF?

Dr. Elefteriadou: He had done a lot of work with faculty in Brazil, but we are doing a significant amount of work here at UF. For the UF dissertation, we have different requirements. We require two publications in order to present the proposal. The student is working on the 2nd now and then he will have one left. He will then defend, based on the publications that happen here at UF.

GC Member: For the dual degree, does the student have two final exams with faculty from both institutions?

Dr. Elefteriadou: For the two separate exams requirement, his visitation advisor from Brazil will be here for the student's defense. They don't have that requirement in Brazil, so I can participate via Skype.

GC Member: It seems through the whole process there are two separate sets of criteria, which seems logical for dual degrees. Even the qualifying exams have different criteria. Then once you get to the dissertation, it doesn't seem equal to the double work done everywhere else.

Dr. Elefteriadou: The work the student is doing at UF is for the UF dissertation. Sao Paulo will have their own requirements for their Ph.D., and he has already done that research and has already published with the faculty in Brazil.

GC Member: You mentioned he has access to a unique database due to the collaboration with Brazil that other students here will not.

Dr. Elefteriadou: He will use the database for his research and his UF dissertation.

Dr. Frierson: These dual degrees are the result of SACS cracking down on joint degrees, so we are now looking into ways for international institutions to collaborate with American university Ph.D. programs.

GC Member: From a procedural perspective, aren't we starting to create a precedent for these?

Dr. Duncan: Staff are currently composing a statement of principles that can guide the Graduate Council in looking at these one at a time. I don't think we will have a lot of these dual degree proposals, but the Provost and the President make it clear that as part of internationalization efforts we do want to be collaborative.

GC Member: It sounds like the student has done everything needed for his UF Ph.D.

Dr. Frierson: The main concern we have is to ensure the work is what would be expected for a UF Ph.D.

GC Member: It's an issue if the student writes a UF dissertation with a copyright and Sao Paulo claims they have the same one.

Ms. Wallace: The student holds the copyright at UF. A statement is included in the dissertation that indicates it's in partial fulfillment of the UF Ph.D.

GC Member: Has a precedent been set at similar institutions to UF for these dissertation questions?

Dr. Duncan: The institution that is probably most actively involved in these types of degrees is Rice University. They have substantial activity in these, but they don't do hundreds or even dozens yearly. UF is 8th or 9th in terms of total Ph.D.'s and we see about five dual degree proposals maximum in a year. I think other universities are moving more aggressively toward these than we are.

GC Member: I'm wondering how our decision will impact the student, given they are already getting the UF degree. If Sao Paulo then chose to give the student another one, they can do that.

Dr. Duncan: There has to be an MOU at the institutional level first, then we can propose dual degrees. We concern ourselves with the UF requirements and the partner institution does the same on their end. There will be overlap in how the requirements are satisfied, but it is structured that each institution ensures their own Ph.D. requirements are met.

GC Member: Is the dissertation better than it would be otherwise, if the student didn't have access to this data and unique skills that the faculty at UF don't have? Everything else is clear in the proposal except that. It would be good to have some affirmation that there is value added based on the relationship between the two universities.

Dr. Duncan: That is a good point, and moving forward we can make sure the documentation includes at least affirmation from the faculty this is the case.

GC Member: It just seems the dual degree can be accomplished with or without our approval.

GC Member: He will get two separate degrees. Is that something UF wants to be in the business of doing?

GC Member: We probably should be if UF is leveraging something from the other university that enables the student to do something that is innovative and not possible otherwise.

GC Member: Can you do a dissertation of record?

Dr. Duncan: Historically, Graduate Council has approved variations on the dissertation that have ranged from a single dissertation in English examined by a committee with faculty from both institutions incorporating knowledge that came from both sets of faculty, dissertations with two same dissertations in two languages, single dissertations with two abstracts, and dual degrees with two dissertations. This is why we look at them one at a time. We spend a lot of time on a small number of students.

GC Member: Which dissertation type is this?

Dr. Elefteriadou: I do not know exactly what kind of document would be produced for Brazil. I'm comfortable with the document we're working on here.

GC Member: The proposal says the same document will be used to obtain both Ph.D.'s.

Dr. Duncan: That's shorthand. One document is actually three published papers.

GC Member: I think we should revisit joint degrees.

Dr. Duncan: Perhaps we could ask Dr. Brophy to do an in-service to talk to us about the accreditation rules and what made joint degrees problematic.

Mr. Mitterko: There are SACS concerns with joint degrees that go beyond just the credentials; for instance, certifying that courses are equivalent to UF courses. It can take between nine and twelve months, which further extends the timeline for the joint degree.

Dr. Duncan: The new documentation I'm working on will emphatically state that no single approval will ever be a precedent. The form template is a precedent, but each proposal is built individually.

GC Member: Can we move to approve with a notation this is not a precedent?

A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed with one abstention with the notation that approval of this dual degree does not constitute a precedent.

6. **Proposal for a dual degree between the University of Florida and Korea Aerospace University.** Dr. Nam-ho Kim was present for discussion.

Dr. Kim: This is my 2nd joint Ph.D. program. This program is about collaboration. The student will start in the next month and would come here in January 2020.

GC Member: There is no detail in the proposal. We want to know about the value that generates the two degrees. The proposal has many one word answers, and I'm unable to review it for that reason.

Dr. Kim: On my end, I'm asking for one degree.

GC Member: The student asks for two.

GC Member: We need stronger rationale to consider.

Dr. Kim: On the transcript it shows the student has a joint degree with UF and other institution.

GC member: I'm confused about the research. You said it is joint research, but the proposal says there are two committees who will meet separately. What is the purpose of the two committees?

Dr. Kim: Each committee has to approve the dissertation. The defense happens the same day, but the student defends twice.

GC Member: I would like that information to be included in section H of the proposal. It needs to be written out in terms of why it's essential for student to do the program in this way.

GC Member: I have a process question. Because we can't do joint degrees people ask for dual degrees. But we say dual degrees are different than joint degrees. So the statement of principles you're creating should make it clear they are not joint degrees.

A motion to table pending additional information and clarification was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

II. INFORMATION ITEMS:

- 7. Administrative approval to allow 24 credits of DMD coursework to count toward the PhD in Biomedical Sciences.**
- 8. Graduate Programs – Online and Self-Funded (No new items).**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:17 p.m.