

GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

April 18, 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. Christopher Hass, Dr. James McLeskey, Dr. Jane Southworth, Mr. Seth Assan (GSC alternate)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Karen Bjorndal, Dr. Tom Frazer, Dr. Raymond Issa, Dr. Mahendrarajah Nimalendran, Dr. Bruce Macfadden, Dr. Sihong Song, Ms. Madeline Sciullo (GSC representative)

GUESTS PRESENT: Mr. Phillip Buchyn (College of Veterinary Medicine), Dr. Jason Butler (Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering), Dr. Jason Byrd (College of Medicine), Dr. Ilaria Capua (College of Agricultural and Life Sciences), Dr. Maureen Conroy (College of Education), Mr. Aaron King (Distance and Continuing Education), Dr. Brian Marchman (Distance and Continuing Education), Mr. Justin Marlin (College of the Arts), Mr. Robert McGarrah (Office of Admissions), Dr. Bernard Okech (College of Public Health and Health Professions), Dr. Brian Reichow (College of Education)

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

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m.

I. ACTION ITEMS:

1. **Minutes from the March 15, 2018 Graduate Council meeting.** A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

CERTIFICATES:

2. **Proposal from the College of Veterinary Medicine for a modification to the graduate certificate in Shelter Medicine (#12200).** Dr. Jason Byrd and Mr. Phillip Buchyn were present for discussion.
GC Member: What will happen to students seeking this certificate at the current level of credits?
Mr. Buchyn: We will continue to offer the courses until all of the current certificate students complete the program. Once they complete, all new students will start with the modified certificate.
GC Member: Is this certificate equivalent to programs at other institutions?
Mr. Buchyn: We're the only shelter medicine program.
A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.
3. **Proposal from the College of Public Health and Health Professions for a modification to the graduate certificate in One Health (#12137).** Dr. Ilaria Capua was present for discussion.
GC Member: This modification seems to take a straightforward certificate with nine required credit hours and turn it into a certificate with four optional tracks that do not all seem like One Health. For instance, Introduction to Agriculture is included. Graduate certificates are usually narrow in focus.
Dr. Capua: This certificate proposal originated from the previous certificate. The program was left orphaned and I was recruited to start a new One Health program. The course options are broad due to the era of massive awareness of how interconnected we are and how the different disciplines are interconnected. Agriculture is not traditionally a One Health topic; however, with the increasing use and consumption of antibiotics in fish farms, for example, this is becoming a serious One Health problem. The One Health concept dates back to the 1960s and is usually focused on human/animal interface issues, so it needs updating and to be made broader and more engaging for other disciplines.

This certificate is a way to start moving the One Health program in a different direction and to start approaching a new One Health vision which is unique to UF.

GC Member: There is an existing program in medical geography and global health, so this overlaps. Do you have letters of support from all the departments whose courses you list here? This doesn't seem narrow enough in focus to be a certificate program.

Dr. Duncan: For courses being reviewed by the Graduate Curriculum Committee that appear to infringe upon another unit's territory, we require consultation. There isn't that requirement when a unit proposes a program. We spoke with PHHP about this and urged consultations.

GC Member: The previous certificate was more focused.

Dr. Capua: That depends on how you define One Health. We did not put this modified certificate together by chance. We may not have reached out to everyone on campus, but inevitably if you're trying to change something there can be issues that need to be resolved. I would like to move this certificate forward, but if it's problematic I can do something else. I was hired here to foster interdisciplinary collaboration. I have an appointment in three colleges and I'm trying to move us forward where I think we should be given where One Health was left by several organizations that just want to study human/animal interface.

GC Member: Are there any guidelines for how focused graduate certificates have to be?

Dr. Duncan: The Graduate School has a Graduate Certificate Policy, but it is not rigid. UF wants certificates to be rigorous but has tried to reduce the constraints on them.

GC Member: These certificates can allow units to move quickly with a changing landscape and develop cutting edge certificate programs.

GC Member: I was trying to figure out what One Health is based on the rationale you provided in the documents. The explanation you have provided today goes beyond what is listed there and should maybe be added in order to clarify.

Dr. Capua: Today, we have tools that reposition the One Health vision taking it beyond vector-borne diseases. This certificate will prepare those students who are not from the College of Veterinary Medicine or PHHP. We anticipate only half of the students will have a biomedical background and the other half will have another background.

GC Member: It seems we have certificates that are either focused or unfocused. Where does this certificate lie?

Dr. Duncan: I would say in the middle. We are currently in conversations with other colleges over what has been perceived as a single certificate of made up of twelve credit hours chosen from seventy-five courses. The unit could either figure out their content, subdivide, or have multiple certificates, or they can have one certificate that has multiple tracks.

Dr. Frierson: This certificate is called One Health but there are four tracks, so it appears to be four certificates under the One Health title. It's not as widespread as initially thought because the student will decide the track in order to differentiate.

Dr. Duncan: There are two required courses and then elective courses from four colleges.

GC Member: It appears the unit went through the catalog and included whatever courses are taught online. The core courses are the strong courses within each focus area, and the two One Health courses are very strong.

Dr. Capua: We did not simply choose the courses from the catalog. Our thinking was that we could have mathematics students or engineers who wouldn't be interested in tick-borne disease but rather how houses could be built to keep out insects. We have students interested in health, environmental health, ecology, water environments, and infectious diseases to name a few. We worked on creating the courses for a long time.

GC Member: Can you comment on the frequency of the classes being offered and guarantee that all of these classes will be taught, given the breadth of the number of classes? In particular, track four has three classes and one requires permission by the instructor. In my own department, we have online courses that are offered less frequently due to sabbaticals and such. Electives are only offered every other year, so we try to have flexibility. I would hope for assurance in the more sparse tracks that the necessary courses would be offered.

Dr. Capua: We reached out to the instructors in charge of these courses, and some do have prerequisites. The instructors have assured us they would work with the students and provide any extra support needed. As far as availability of the courses, I wouldn't know that but would expect the courses to be offered at least twice in a year and a half, which is the time needed to complete this certificate.

GC Member: Are there any current students currently enrolled in the existing certificate?

Dr. Capua: No.

GC Member: The documents indicate you could take up to fifty students.

Dr. Capua: The Department of Defense grant allows us to take up to fifty students. The idea started with us thinking a lower number.

GC Member: Certificates are entities of the units but politically I would suggest engaging with other colleges more.

GC Member: One issue is to not let certificates steal students from graduate programs. Another is it's difficult for students to differentiate between similar certificates and have there be even playing field.

GC Member: Is there a limit to the number of certificates graduate students can earn?

Dr. Duncan: There was recently an adulatory article at UF written on a student who earned five. But there will be a limit on the number of graduate certificates a student can earn.

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

CONCENTRATION:

- 4. Proposal from the College of Education for a new graduate concentration in Early Childhood Studies (#11614).** Dr. Brian Reichow and Dr. Maureen Conroy were present for discussion. A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

MAJOR:

- 5. Proposal from the College of the Arts to add the non-thesis option to the Master of Arts with a major in digital arts and sciences (#12264).** Mr. Justin Marlin was present for discussion.

GC Member: Do you have a vision of what the non-thesis option will look like?

Mr. Marlin: Students are doing augmented and virtual reality so the non-thesis option will provide flexibility.

GC Member: That sounds like a Project in Lieu of Thesis (PILOT).

Mr. Marlin: The non-thesis is a single entity that can include multiple disciplines.

GC Member: There is a thesis option, a PILOT option, and now you are proposing a non-thesis option. Is the only difference the classes?

Mr. Marlin: There is a larger written component with PILOTs, and with the non-thesis option there would be less.

GC Member: The non-thesis is just a project where a PILOT is a project plus a paper.

Ms. Wallace: Theirs is categorized as a project in GIMS and would normally be more of a project with less of a written component, while the non-thesis may represent the project and have a written component, and the thesis option is strictly written. You still need three options, but there may be a flip of the terminology between using PILOT and non-thesis. The non-thesis option is typically a collection of coursework.

Mr. Marlin: There will still be a capstone experience working on a project, but having clarification helps. The non-thesis option provides more flexibility for graduate students without the written component.

GC Member: I'm also confused by the thirty credits. This is not a free-for-all thirty credits?

Mr. Marlin: No. The curriculum is the same and the only difference in the new non-thesis option is the capstone course.

GC Member: Those courses don't count toward the degree?

Ms. Enholm: Those courses count for the overall credit but not toward major credit.

GC Member: Which capstone course the student takes depends on which of the three options they choose. That information should be included on the form if that's the only difference.

Dr. Duncan: This trichotomy of options is where we will ultimately end up in the structure of master degrees.

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

DUAL DEGREE:

6. **Proposal for a dual degree between the University of Florida and Aix-Marseille.** Dr. Paul Duncan and Dr. Jason Butler were present for discussion.

Dr. Duncan: In extensive conversation with the University Council, we have firm recommendation that UF does need to honor prior commitments made and signed. Unless there is something horribly deficient in this proposal, we hope it will be approved but with the understanding that if we pass the dual degree policy next on the agenda this proposal may not be approved in the future. We cannot impose policy changes retroactively. In the case of this proposal, Dr. Butler indicates the equipment at Aix-Marseilles allows the student to accomplish three separate but related experiments of which only one or two could be done at each institution alone.

GC Member: Have any other students from your department done similar types of international collaboration without earning a dual degree?

Dr. Butler: Yes. In France, the students are coming in and being trained on the equipment but the faculty there are not vested in the project or success of the student. The returns of having the student dually enrolled and working closely with invested faculty seemed to be advantageous. I have done these with multiple students now and my colleagues at other universities have found it to be an enriching experience for students.

GC Member: The program is beginning three years after the formalization of the agreement?

Dr. Butler: The program is beginning in the fall. French universities don't accept students unless they have completed their master's program. The student has already spent seven or eight months in France and will be going for another three months this summer, regardless of the outcome of this proposal. The MOU is established and was approved by Graduate Council in 2015.

Mr. Mitterko: The intention of these is for reciprocal exchange. The last student originated in France and became a student here.

Dr. Butler: Before the MOU was in place, we did have two students who were awarded dual degrees at Aix-Marseilles, one of whom got a job with Exxon in which international experience was critical.

GC Member: The issue we grapple with is not the international experience, but that the student earns two degrees for one piece of work.

Dr. Butler: When we first started doing dual degrees, even before the MOU, this has always been a question. French institutions fully understand dual degrees and that's how they do business with each other. They understand this is the easiest route to ensure students receive mentorship across two institutions. In France, even where there are two degrees there is one body of work and these dual degrees are more common. Because of SACS we have no choice other than dual degrees because no institution is going to agree to a joint degree.

GC Member: Outside of international benefit, this is a pipeline that has history and the major issue is equipment and expertise. Should we not try to do it here?

Dr. Butler: They have advantages and disadvantages. The advantage to us is that in a more socialized country they have experienced engineers that work in machine shops to construct specialty equipment. This is very expensive and paid for by the French government. Universities in this country have shut down machine shops, so finding someone who can work with students and who can construct a one-off piece of equipment is very difficult.

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

ADOPTION OF DUAL PH.D. DEGREE POLICY:

7. **Motion to affirm previously circulated policy document.** Dr. Paul Duncan was present for discussion.

Dr. Duncan: Matt and I have worked to incorporate the words or tone of the discussion we had here as well as emails I received in this slightly revised policy. The changes are not radical but emphasize the “value added” concept that several council members raised and to make it clear this is a possible but steep hill toward approval from this council.

GC Member: One of our guiding principles has been that these proposals are rare.

Dr. Duncan: Dr. Butler has about a half dozen students he is mentoring that will be involved. The department uses these as not an ad hoc one-off but rather as a program that will develop ongoing relationships. If the value of this to a unit like Dr. Butler’s department in Engineering only exists if it’s a program rather than a one student special situation, they won’t bother.

GC Member: What he described is really a joint degree. Even if they are common in France, it sounds impressive to people here in the U.S. that the student has two PhDs. Is there any other terminology we could use?

Dr. Duncan: It’s not just a terminology issue. I’ve talked to Dr. Brophy about this and the issue is a single credential that is jointly contributed to by two institutions where one is accredited and one is not. So the question that arises in a joint degree is whether the credential is coming from the accredited institution. In dual degrees, there can only be one credential if both institutions are accredited.

GC Member: We would probably deny the previous dual degree in the agenda under this new policy.

Dr. Duncan: The MOU is only in place through 2020. We will make units aware of the new rules. If regional accrediting organizations can be convinced maybe they could approve joint but single degrees. But they’re not there yet.

GC Member: Is there a reason each one will come to Graduate Council? Can there be another system setup to review these?

Dr. Duncan: If in the framework of this policy we’re proposing we get more rather than less of these proposals that will be a communications failure on our part. These have to be approved on a one-off basis. If the council wants to divest itself of this task we would need for how they could be managed otherwise.

GC Member: Are there any other dual degree proposals in the pipeline?

Dr. Duncan: There is a possibility of one with Korean Airspace University.

Mr. Mitterko: I have had tentative conversations with faculty in Engineering but the proposal is not very far along. I had discussions with Stellenbosch in Africa but couldn’t reconcile between dual and joint degrees. Those are the only other two on the radar at the moment.

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

II. INFORMATION ITEMS:

8. **Combined Bachelor’s/Master’s degree program: Bachelor of Science with a major in Biology and a thesis Master of Science with a major in Medical Sciences with or without a concentration in Pharmacology.** Dr. Duncan explained this combined degree is unusual because the baccalaureate degree is in one college and the graduate degree is in another college, so we wanted to make council aware.
9. **Update about the Graduate Council election 2018-2021.** The newly elected Graduate Council members for 2018-2021 are Dr. Wendy Graham from the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering and Dr. Lori Pennington-Gray from the Department of Tourism, Recreation, and Sport Management. The new Provost-appointed members are Dr. Jason Blackburn from the Department of Geography and Dr. Joyce Bono from the Department of Management.

10. Graduate Programs – Online and Self-Funded

- Master of Science with a major in Tourism and Recreation Management (with a specialization in Hospitality Business Management)
- Graduate Certificate in Tropical Agriculture

The meeting was adjourned at 2:21 p.m.