**GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES**
**January 17, 2019**
**1:00 PM**

**GRINTER HALL ROOM 110**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dr. Henry Frierson (Chair), Dr. Karen Bjorndal, Dr. David Bloom, Dr. Joyce Bono, Dr. Raymond Issa, Dr. Bruce MacFadden, Dr. Sihong Song, Mr. Seth Assan (GSC representative)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dr. Jason Blackburn, Dr. Kendal Broad-Wright, Dr. Warren Dixon, Dr. Wendy Graham, Dr. James Mcleskey, Dr. Lori Pennington-Gray, Mr. Glen Billesbach (GSC alternate)

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Dr. Alyson Adams (College of Education), Dr. Hai-Ping Cheng (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences), Dr. Jamie Foster (College of Agricultural and Life Sciences), Dr. Matthew Gurka (College of Medicine), Mr. Aaron King (Distance and Continuing Education), Dr. Brian Marchman (Distance and Continuing Education), Mr. Robert McGarrah (Office of Admissions), Dr. Tom McMorrow (College of Education) Mr. Lee Morrison (Office of the University Registrar), Dr. Sharlynn Sweeney (Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering), Dr. Hans Van Oostrom (Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering)

**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 December 13, 2018, Graduate Council meeting.** A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

**CERTIFICATES:**

2. **Proposal from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences for a new graduate certificate in Environmental Microbiology (#12418).** Dr. Jamie Foster was present for discussion via Zoom. Dr. Foster explained that their unit has had a successful online master's degree focusing on medical microbiology that began about four years ago. They now want to attract a new audience to their master's program and feel this certificate may be a way to do that. The certificate will offer students coursework in emerging areas and making it accessible to non-degree seeking students will hopefully attract them to complete their master's in the online microbiology program.
   **GC Member:** I have a question about the Requirements for Admission section. I understand credits earned earlier can transfer to the graduate certificate.
   **Dr. Foster:** We understand that credits can technically expire.
   **GC Member:** Does that mean you would accept credits that had been earned six years previously?
   **Dr. Foster:** Correct. That's what we do for our master's programs and we wanted the requirements for the certificate to match.
   **Dr. Duncan:** We will work with the unit to make that language clearer.
   **GC Member:** What is the difference between a concentration and a certificate?
   **Dr. Duncan:** A concentration is earned as part of the graduate degree. A graduate certificate is a freestanding credential that likewise appears on a transcript.
   **GC Member:** Who verifies each?
   **Dr. Duncan:** The Graduate School does not monitor these. When a certificate is created, the Graduate Council approves those. However, the enrollment, management, and verification of completion are all handled at the unit level.
   A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

3. **Proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for a new graduate certificate in Theory, Modeling, and Computation of Molecules and Materials (#12868).** Dr. Hai-Ping Cheng was present for discussion. A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

4. **Proposal from the Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering for a new graduate certificate in Wetland Sciences (#11865).** Dr. Sharlynn Sweeney was present for discussion. Dr. Duncan explained that this refers to certificate that has been offered in various forms for a decade, but its location administratively has been subject to discussion. This proposal has a long history, and is an effort to clean up management of the certificate.
   A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

5. **Proposal from the Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering for a new graduate certificate in Engineering Project Management (#12890).** Dr. Hans van Oostrom was present for discussion. A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously

6. **Proposal from the Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering for a new graduate certificate in Engineering Education (#12967).** Dr. Hans van Oostrom was present for discussion.
   **GC Member:** Is there a market for faculty who have strength in this area?
   **Dr. van Oostrom:** There are now several programs that offer PhDs in this area. We may move in that direction as well but wanted to start with the certificate. Teaching engineering has a lot of unique aspects to it.
   **GC Member:** Was the College of Education consulted?
   **Dr. van Oostrom:** There are two consults included.
   **GC Member:** I notice one of the consults is Kent Crippen, who is very involved with STEM.
   A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

**CONCENTRATIONS:**

Proposals 7-10 were reviewed as one. Motions to approve were made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

7. **Proposal from the College of Education for a new concentration in Educational Technology for the Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instruction and the Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction (#13106).** Dr. Alyson Adams was present for discussion.

8. **Proposal from the College of Education for a new concentration in Educational Technology for the Ed.S. in Curriculum and Instruction (#13107).** Dr. Alyson Adams was present for discussion.

9. **Proposal from the College of Education for a new concentration in Educational Technology for the M.A.E. and M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction (#13105).** Dr. Alyson Adams was present for discussion.

10. **Proposal from the College of Medicine for a modification to the name and curriculum of the concentration in Health Outcomes and Policy for the Ph.D. in Medical Sciences (#13325).** Dr. Matthew Gurka was present for discussion. A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

11. **Proposal from the College of Medicine for a modification to the name and curriculum of the concentration in Health Outcomes and Policy for the M.S. in Medical Sciences (#13304).** Dr. Matthew Gurka was present for discussion. A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**:

12. **Establish a nominating committee to create the ballot for new members to serve on Graduate Council for 2019-2022.** The outgoing members are Dr. Bloom, Dr. Issa, Dr. Bjorndal, Dr. MacFadden, and Mr. Assan. These members will meet to create a slate of prospective new members. Graduate School staff will reach out to assist with the process..

## II. DISCUSSION ITEM:

13. **Continued discussion on the Graduate Record Examinations.** Dr. Paul Duncan and Mr. Matt Mitterko were present for discussion. Dr. Frierson explained that this discussion is a continuation of those begun at earlier Graduate Council meetings regarding whether to allow academic units the option to decide for themselves whether to require GRE scores at the master's level. The programs would have to specify early on whether they were going to require the GRE, but not in perpetuity. Another element is that the unit would not be able to require the GRE of any one student but not others.
**Dr. Duncan:** In our previous discussions, members of the Graduate Council asked for information on the requirement of the GRE at our peer institutions. We have a handout with a summary of what we learned by looking at graduate catalogs or by calling colleagues. I was surprised by these findings, mostly by the small number of institutions at the peer level that have a global requirement parallel to ours… a policy requiring that everyone applying for admission to a graduate program must have GRE scores. What is more common is the kind of pattern of movement that we are exploring now that offers academic units more autonomy. If peer institutions require the GRE, it is common that the requirement is university wide. A few schools I spoke with indicated that providing GRE scores can be an onerous requirement, such as in places like the Middle East or Africa where it can be dangerous for the students to go to a testing center or the internet is unreliable. Many students take the GRE and choose to submit their scores or not. If we implement a change, in UF policy/requirements there would be nothing stopping a student being able to send their GRE scores to UF voluntarily.
**Dr. Duncan:** The anticipation with this is that we would have a motion next month. One of the challenges for implementation is that we are going to have to identify program by program what the colleges perceive to be their separate graduate degree programs. For example, there are half a dozen versions of the MBA, and the College of Business would have to determine whether that is one program or six. There will be administrative and implementation challenges.
**GC Member:** When I asked colleagues, they were overwhelmingly enthusiastic about this. They are aware that the GRE is not good predictor of student success, but there were a few who felt concerned about not requiring the GRE and how that could be the loss of a way to identify red flags. But they mostly felt that leaving the decision up to the unit was a positive change.
**GC Member:** My unit has had these discussions informally before the issue was raised here, and we were even interested in this at the PhD level.
**GC Member:** I would advise us to not overweigh the issue of the GRE scores not being good predictors of student success because there are range restrictions in the scores and it's a measurement problem.
**Dr. Duncan:** We will work on a motion or statement along the lines of our previous two discussions and the handout. We will strongly emphasize department autonomy and that this change would only affect the master's degree programs. This is the type of policy change that doesn't happen very often at UF; in fact, there is not a way to make this change in the approval system. There is some presumption that the Faculty Senate would have to be given opportunity to weigh in on this as well even after Graduate Council's decision. The President and the Provost are interested in this, so regardless of what Graduate Council decides there are more decisions to be made.
**Dr. Frierson:** I think most units don't have apprehension about this, it's just new for us. Master's programs are critical, and if competitive programs do not require the GRE and we do, students may see that as a disadvantage of UF.
**Dr. Duncan:** We can talk with our data management unit here and see if we can have some ideas in place so we can get a look at what the application pool is at the program level and whether the selection within the pool changes subsequent to a change in policy. I also want Graduate Council to know that we do appreciate that you took the time to talk to your colleagues and consider this thoughtfully.

## III. INFORMATION ITEM:

14. **Graduate Programs – Distance or Self-Funded** (No new items).

The meeting adjourned at 1:43 p.m.