

MINUTES  
GRADUATE COUNCIL  
March 15, 2001  
1:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Winfred Phillips, Chair, Dr. Gijs Bosman, Dr. Dawn Bowers, William Calin, Dr. Lauren Chapman, Ms. Raina Joines, Dr. Pushpa Kalra, Dr. Jerry Stimac, Dr. Henri Van Rinsvelt

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Carol Reed Ash, Dr. Bob Kennedy, Dr. Stephen Pearton, Dr. Jill Peterson, Ms. Jaimee Perez

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. Linda Crocker, Dr. Stephanie Hanson, Dr. Mike McKenzie, Dr. Dorene Ross, Ms. Barbara Talmadge

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt, Ms. Linda Vivian, Mr. Gary Hartge, Ms. Helen Martin

Dr. Winfred Phillips, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

**I. ACTION ITEMS**

1. The minutes of the February 15, 2001 Graduate Council meeting were unanimously approved as written.
2. Dr. Linda Crocker and Dr. Dorene Ross from the College of Education presented a proposal to substitute the Praxis II standardized examination for the GRE for admission to the Master of Education degree programs in elementary and special education. Four graduate degree programs in the college are designed to produce teachers for preschool, elementary, media, or special education and to provide professional development and advancement for teachers in these fields. An ad hoc faculty committee analyzed admissions data and reviewed the assessment literature. They recommended a nationally normed, standardized test that was developed by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) for teacher education. The PRAXIS test series has three levels. The committee recommended the PRAXIS II, designed to measure general knowledge, knowledge of principles of teaching and learning for grades K-5, communication skills, and professional knowledge.

The college requests approval to use the PRAXIS II as an alternative test to the GRE for a three-year period. This would allow time to collect data from test scores and student performance in class, clinical internships, and state licensure measures. Council members expressed concern that the PRAXIS does not test subject knowledge of the applicant, but links questions to a teaching problem.

Further, allowing substitution of the GRE would not permit a direct GRE/PRAXIS comparison and sets a precedent for specialized testing.

Following discussion, *the Graduate Council developed and unanimously approved a motion* to allow a 3-year pilot study requiring the PRAXIS II along with the GRE for admission to elementary and special education Master's of Education programs.

The intent of the Graduate Council in approving this motion was to obtain data on both tests so a quantitative relation between the PRAXIS II and the GRE can be established.

Dr. Phillips was not able to stay for the entire meeting. Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt, acting chair, presided over the remainder of the meeting.

3. Dr. Stephanie Hanson from the College of Health Professions and Dr. Mike McKenzie from the College of Pharmacy presented a proposal for a joint PharmD/Master of Public Health degree program. Students complete their first two years in the pharmacy program and then complete one full year of MPH coursework. During the fourth and fifth years, students would register for coursework concurrently. Up to 12 hours of pharmacy coursework would count toward the 36-credit MPH degree.

The major focus of the program is to educate students in the delivery of pharmaceutical care with public health principles in the areas of public health management and policy, community health education, or epidemiology. *The Council unanimously approved the program.*

4. Dr. Stephanie Hanson from the College of Health Professions and Dr. Scott Tomar from the College of Dentistry presented a proposal for a joint Doctor of Dental Medicine/Master of Public Health degree program. Students would take coursework simultaneously from both programs, with the first MPH course required by the end of the second term of dentistry studies. Up to 12 credits of professional coursework would count toward the MPH degree.

This program is designed so that students are able to integrate their knowledge and skills in the delivery of clinical dental services with public health principles. *The Council unanimously approved the program.*

5. The nominating committee presented the slate of nominees for new Council members who will serve for the 2001-2004 term. The election will be conducted in April using an electronic and paper balloting process. *The Council unanimously approved the slate of nominees.*

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.