

MINUTES
GRADUATE COUNCIL
December 19, 2002
1:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt, Acting Chair, Dr. Russell Bauer, Dr. Lauren Chapman, Dr. James Jones, Dr. Christiana Leonard, Dr. Stephen Pearton, Dr. Jose Principe, Dr. Richard Romano

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Winfred Phillips, Chair, Dr. Jeffrey Adler, Dr. James Algina, Dr. William Calin, Dr. Richard Condit, Mr. Jason Gainous, Dr. Marjorie Hoy, Dr. Henri Van Rinsvelt

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. Diana Boxer, Dr. Jean Casagrande, Dr. Sheila Dickison, Mr. Frank Goeddeke, Dr. E. Jane Luzar, Mr. Bill Radunovich

STAFF PRESENT: Ms. Linda Vivian, Mr. Gary Hartge, Ms. Helen Martin, Ms. Lorna Dishman

Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

I. ACTION ITEMS

1. The minutes of the November 21, 2002, Graduate Council meeting were approved unanimously.
2. Dr. Diana Boxer and Dr. Jean Casagrande from the Department of Linguistics presented a proposal for a cooperative program with Ajou University in Korea to award an MA in linguistics from the University of Florida. Ajou University offers a certificate in Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) on its campus and, through an agreement with UF, would actively recruit certificate holders to apply to UF for graduate work leading to the MA. The submitted proposal requested an exception of the transfer of credit limit to allow 12 credits for transfer. However, after consulting with the University of Wisconsin-Madison, who has a similar program, the department no longer wishes to request a special exception. Therefore, it was no longer necessary for the Council to act on this proposal. However, the Council chose to endorse the concept of a cooperative agreement with Ajou University within University of Florida regulations.
3. Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt from the Graduate School presented the documentation requested by the Council for the combined bachelor's/master's degree program regarding admissions criteria, GRE scores, and a comparison of combined programs in peer institutions.

Some Council members expressed some concern that the proliferation and promotion of combined programs tends to dilute the master's degree, which may have long-term implications for the university's image. Our peer institutions offer very few combined programs compared with the 37 programs currently offered at UF. However, disciplines with the master's as the entry-level degree believe that the combined program provides a competitive edge for students since they finish a semester sooner than traditional graduate

students. They also allow departments to retain their good undergraduate students by providing an accelerated program as incentive. *After a lengthy discussion and review of the documentation, the Council reaffirmed the current admissions criteria of a 3.2 GPA and 1100 combined GRE score with 12 graduate credits dual-counted for both degrees.*

II. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mr. Bill Radunovich, the Graduate Student Council alternate and Mr. Frank Goeddeke from Graduate Assistants United lead a discussion about the definition of full-time enrollment as 12 credits. According to documentation provided, there is no consistency among peer institutions, with requirements varying from 8 to 16 credits. The issue was raised because international students were previously required to register for 9 credits at the discretion of the UF International Center. As of Spring 2003, the INS will require international students to be registered full-time according to the institution's catalog. Therefore, international students would have to register for 12 credits. Many international students consider this a hardship. Although not an official representative of these students since it pertains to students not on an appointment, the GAU is requesting that the Council support a 9-credit registration for international students. Council members acknowledged that lowering the full-time definition impacted other types of registration requirements and they did not want to take action without due consideration. However, they were sympathetic to this situation and endorsed the lowered registration in principle while recommending that the university find an equitable solution for defining full-time registration.

III. INFORMATION ITEM

On December 5, 2002, the Graduate School administratively approved the addition of three new concentrations to the master's and PhD in interdisciplinary ecology in tropical conservation and development, landscape architecture, and urban and regional planning.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.