

MINUTES
GRADUATE COUNCIL
January 17, 2008
1:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Henry Frierson, Chair; Dr. Jane Brockmann, Dr. Richard Dickinson, Dr. Eileen Fennell, Ms. Becky Hayes-Smith (GSC), Dr. Jeffrey Needell, Dr. Panagote Pardalos, Mr. Aaron Rising (GSC alternate), Dr. Sharleen Simpson, Dr. Christopher Stanton, Dr. Peggy Wallace

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Joseph Delfino, Dr. Bridget Franks, Dr. Abraham Hartzema, Dr. Betty Smocovitis, Dr. Kim Walsh-Childers

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. Pamela Gilbert, Dr. David Leavitt, Dr. Kenneth Kidd (English); Dr. Jane Day (Physical Therapy); Dr. Selcuk Erenguc, Ms. Kara Cupoli (College of Business Administration); Dr. Kelli Brown (College of Health and Human Performance); Ms. Chandra Mitchell (Office of Admissions); Mr. Steve Pritz (Office of the Registrar)

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Laurence Alexander, Ms. Rimjhim Banerjee, Ms. Gann Enholm, Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt, Ms. Anne Taylor

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 P.M.

1. **Minutes of the December 13, 2007, Graduate Council Meeting.** Approved unanimously.
2. **Proposal for an adjustment of the JD/MBA Joint Degree agreement.** Dr. Selcuk Erenguc and Ms. Kara Cupoli were present for discussion. The proposal is to double-count 16 credit hours for these students. The proposal was approved unanimously. Effective date: Spring 2008.
3. **Proposal to change the 2-year MFA degree to a 3-year program.** Dr. Pamela Gilbert, Dr. David Leavitt, and Dr. Kenneth Kidd were present for discussion. Funding for MFA Writing students at the University of Florida (UF) is low (\$9200/year) compared to funding for comparable students at the University of Michigan (\$20,000/year). The third year will make us more competitive ($\$9200 \times 3 \text{ years} = \$28,200$ for 3 years). Having a third year would also cover the MFA students' tuition, and that tuition waiver further augments the stipend. This third year can ready them to publish. As it is, they are very well trained to teach. They all get jobs. There are incoming undergraduate students who need teachers to cover the courses. So the number of stipends cannot be cut to increase the dollar amount of each stipend. The proposal was approved unanimously. Effective date: Fall 2008.
4. **Proposal for a name change for graduate majors in Information Systems and Operations Management Department (formerly the Decision and Information Sciences Department).** Dr. Asoo Vakharia was present for discussion. The former department name

was introduced in 1984 and “the world changes.” The degree program names are being revised to coincide with the department name, which was changed last year to better reflect the state of the field. The proposal was approved unanimously. Effective date: Spring 2008.

5. **Proposal to sunset the MHS Physical Therapy program.** Dr. Jane Day was present for discussion. The proposal was approved unanimously. Effective date to be determined pending all other approvals.
6. **Appoint Graduate Council Nominating Committee.** In accordance with tradition, the nominating committee comprises the outgoing members: Dr. Abraham Hartzema, Dr. Panagote Pardalos, Dr. Jane Brockman, Dr. Eileen Fennell, and Graduate Student Council representative Ms. Becky Hayes-Smith. This committee is responsible for getting names to the Graduate Council in 6 weeks (March is ideal; April is more reasonable). Then the Council selects the slate. Council tries to construct a ballot that reflects the diverse fields and units, but the members of Graduate Council do not represent the units; they represent the University. The slate is then presented to the Provost as suggestions for appointment.
7. **Other discussion.** Dr. Eileen Fennell asked, “With talk of budget cuts, what can you tell us about any proposed impact on graduate departments at UF?” Dr. Frierson said, “summer school will continue.” Several council members said that it would be good to hear from the President soon on this issue, because international students (and many other graduate students) are rightly concerned by the suggestion to the contrary, in the Gainesville Sun (which quoted President Machen). Summer teaching assistants need their teaching jobs because they are here for 12 months (not 9). Council agreed that if summer school is still going to be funded, this information should be communicated clearly, as soon as possible. Dr. Fennell said, “Then I could tell grad students they have jobs; which would be good.”

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 P.M.