

**MINUTES**  
**GRADUATE COUNCIL**  
**April 16, 2009**  
**1:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt, Chair, Dr. Richard Dickinson (GCAC),  
Dr. Bridget Franks, Dr. Maureen Keller-Wood, Dr. Michael Marsiske,  
Dr. Leslie Odom, Dr. Sharleen Simpson, Dr. Christopher Stanton,  
Dr. Peggy Wallace

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Joseph Delfino, Dr. Christopher Janiszewski, Dr. Jeffrey Needell  
Dr. Betty Smocovitis, Mr. Aaron Rising (GSC), Mr. Bret Seferian  
(GSC), Dr. Kim Walsh-Childers

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. Jeff Burkhardt (Food and Resource Economics), Ms. Chandra  
Mitchell (Office of Admissions), Ms. Steve Pritz (Registrar), Dr.  
Charles Williams (HHP)

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Karen Bradley (recording), Dr. Laurence Alexander, Ms. Gann  
Enholm

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 P.M.

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. **Minutes from the March 19, 2009 Graduate Council meeting.** Approved unanimously.
2. **Proposal for waivers from the following Graduate School policies: English proficiency requirement, transfer of credits and GRE requirement, for a specific FIPSE sponsored Atlantis grant.** Dr. Jeff Burkhardt summarized the proposal. The US Department of Education, through the FIPSE unit, wants to foster international graduate education programs. The proposed model is to award 2 degrees (one from the US institution, one from the international consortium) for a common body of work that is earned jointly at a US and an international institution. The proposal for Graduate Council requests exceptions for students participating in this grant for 3 current policies: admissions testing, language skills testing, and transfer of credit.

Council engaged in a rigorous discussion of the 3 different components. Some key points included the time limited nature of the grant, a very small number of students involved (4 per year), the very strong undergraduate preparation of the consortium students, and all the consortium institutions are recognized by the UF Office of Admissions.

The proposal for the following exceptions to current policy was approved, with these conditions:

1. Transfer of credit: The Graduate School staff will review the transfer of credit requests in the same process as for all other programs. A maximum of 20 credits of graduate level, letter graded “B” or better verified by official transcript and official English translation will be allowed to transfer and count towards the UF degree.
  2. GRE will be waived only for students entering this specific program.
  3. English language skills tests will be waived because all the consortium students will have had at least one full year of academic instruction in English.
- Vote: approved unanimously with above caveats. Effective date: Fall 2009.

3. **Proposal for a change in admission test scores: MS in Sport Management.** Dr. Charles Williams presented the proposal to permit GMAT to substitute for GRE for those applicants, mainly from business disciplines, who have already taken and posted appropriate GMAT scores. Vote: approved unanimously. Effective date Summer 2009.

### **DISCUSSION ITEM**

Dr. Gerhardt spoke about the national trend of Professional Science Masters (PSM) degrees. These programs are being discussed statewide among the SUS universities, and the legislature is very interested in supporting them as a means of economic development. These degrees are similar to an MBA, but for the sciences. The PSM includes four fundamental components: 1) depth in a particular science discipline; 2) breadth in a “plus curriculum” such as business, management, math, and communications; 3) an internship; and 4) an industrial advisory board. These degrees will appeal to students who have completed a baccalaureate in a science or engineering field and want to be able to effectively communicate the science to other disciplines. In conversations around campus, Dr. Gerhardt has identified colleges interested in creating programs in several areas that will improve the economic development of the state. These areas include forensics in homeland security, translation in medical discoveries, and sustainability in construction.

The SUS will be sending a proposal to the Sloan Foundation for planning funds, followed by a proposal to the Board of Governors for implementation funds.

The colleges will probably be developing proposals over the summer for Graduate Council to consider next fall.

**The meeting adjourned at 2:01 pm**

**Next Meeting: Thursday, May 21, 2009**