

**USF ST. PETERSBURG
GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING**

Thursday, March 12, 2009

10:00 a.m. – Special Collections Reading Room, Nelson Poynter Memorial Library

Attending were: Tom Ainscough (COB), Bonnie Braun (COE), Chris D'Elia (AVC, Research and Graduate Studies, Ex-Officio), Deni Elliot (CAS), Wei Guan (COB), Donna Knudsen (Graduate Studies), Jim Schnur (LIB), Zafer Unal (COE).

Regrets: Ambe Njoh (CAS)

Guests: Ryan Langan (COB)

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Tom called the assembly to order at 10:05 am.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 4 MEETING

Jim distributed the minutes via electronic mail prior to the meeting and provided paper copies for review. After review, the Council accepted the minutes as presented, with a first by Deni and a second by Jim. Jim will submit for placement on the webpage.

CURRICULUM REVIEW: COLLEGE PROPOSAL

- A. **College of Business Proposed Change to MBA Admissions Policy**
Ryan Langan presented a proposed modification to the MBA program's admissions policy. This proposal would provide for flexibility in making early admissions decisions when prospective students who meet other admission criteria and have a total score of 1250 or higher when using the following formula:
(200 X GPA in last 60 semester hours of degree seeking course work) + GMAT score
This change would become effective in the Spring 2010 semester. Motion to support the early admissions decision for students meeting criteria made by Jim and seconded by Bonnie. Passed unanimously.
- B. **Mass Media Applied Research Project Request for Variable Credit (MMC6950)**
Deni brought this matter to our February meeting. Since then, the proposal has made its way through the approval process of the College of Arts and Sciences. In summary, this proposal would allow students in the program the choice of either completing a thesis (by enrolling in what should amount to six thesis hours upon submission of the thesis) or enrolling in the Applied Research Project. Allowing students to take this Applied Research Project course with variable hours would permit them to continue enrollment (similar to the "Z" grade for continued enrollment in thesis hours), without facing the penalties associated with failing to complete course requirements at the end of a single semester (i.e., not completing a project that may involve multiple semesters of research). Motion to support the use of variable credit for MMC6950 made by Jim and seconded by Wei. Passed unanimously.

POLICY PROMULGATION: COORDINATION OF POLICY ISSUES IN USF SYSTEM

Donna reported on Policy Promulgation issues within the University of South Florida system. One important matter that needs clarification on a system-wide basis is the establishment of a “concurrency timeframe.” When the Graduate Executive Coordinating Committee reviews issues of non-concurrency between programs at various USF campuses, we need to have an idea of what amount of time is required to work through issues to reach concurrency. USFSP, along with other USF campuses, has representation on GECC, and we must consider whether we want to ask GECC to push for a concurrency timeframe.

After discussion, members of the Graduate Council expressed their desire to advocate concurrency and hoped for a timeframe of implementation. Donna will draft a note expressing our sentiments.

POLICY PROMULGATION: PROGRAM ASSESSMENT REVIEW

There was brief discussion about program review, with all agreeing that it made best sense to work through programs in various colleges in a systematic way. Jim agreed that when a list of programs is developed, he would keep records of program review sessions so that there would not be an impression that certain programs were targeted with greater frequency. The purpose of such review is not to conduct an inquisition; it is, instead, to better understand the needs of each graduate program so that Graduate Council can advocate when necessary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Donna announced that the proposed changes to the USFSP Graduate Catalog went through BOT workgroup review without any problems.

We still need to get a student representative on the Graduate Council.

ADJOURNMENT

With no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 10:52 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Schnur