

# UCF Graduate Council

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## GRADUATE POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

### Minutes of October 18, 2005 meeting

Members Present Patricia Bishop, Jim Moharam

Recorder Rhonda Nelson

Guests Present Max Poole, Tracy Jones

1. Dr. Wright reported that he had contacted Film and Digital Media to discuss their concerns about faculty qualifications for participating in graduate education. Dr. Fredericks reported that he was not aware of faculty concerns on this issue and referred the email to Clint Bowers to comment on further. Dr. Bowers did not report back to Dr. Wright. Dr. Bishop contacted Dr. Michael Johnson earlier to ask about the nature of the concerns, and Mike checked with Film and Digital Media and was told that earlier they were having difficulty with the new SACs requirements for faculty qualifications. The Graduate Council Policy Subcommittee will not study the matter further until it hears something more specific from Film and Digital Media.
2. Dr. Goodman suggested that the Policy Subcommittee examine the full-time definition for graduate students, since Mary McKinney has warned Graduate Studies that the current definition is not acceptable according to federal guidelines for dispersing financial assistance. She has indicated that the policy needs to apply to all students equally and be a reflection of the workload in order to meet the guidelines. Dr. Bishop framed the discussion in terms of master's students taking thesis hours, the source of the biggest complaints about the current full-time enrollment policy. She presented data showing thesis students and their enrollments. She also reported that the college graduate coordinators had suggested in a recent meeting that the policy be changed to require thesis students to continuously enroll in 3 hours of thesis per semester until graduation, to correspond to the current policy for doctoral students. The committee discussed the pros and cons of the changes. The pros of changing the policy to 3 hours of thesis per semester were that it would be easier to understand by students and advisors, student credit hours would not be affected particularly, and the colleges agreed that this would be workable. It would also satisfy the federal guidelines. The only consideration was that the term limits for tuition waivers for those completing theses should be enforced, once a policy is written on that. The Subcommittee voted unanimously to approve the definition. They asked Dr. Bishop to draft the language to review at the next meeting.
3. Dr. Goodman then asked for suggestions on the next agenda topics. It was decided that academic appeals and disqualifications should be discussed next. The next meeting was set for October 28, 10-11:30, 327 MH.

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