

# UCF Graduate Council

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## GRADUATE POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

### Minutes of January 25, 2006 meeting

Members Present Patricia Bishop, Jim Moharam

Recorder Rhonda Nelson

Guests Present Max Poole

Staff Members Tracy Jones

Handouts: Recommendations for Financial Support for Graduate Assistants.

- The meeting began at 11:30 a.m. in 243 Millican Hall. A quorum was established.
- Update from Stephen Goodman.** Dr. Goodman began the meeting and shared the conversation that he had with Manoj Chopra, Faculty Senate Chair, regarding the 3 resolutions: Draft of Proposed Faculty Senate Resolution XXX - Full time definition for master's thesis students; Draft of Proposed Faculty Senate Resolution XXX - Split Level Courses; and Draft of Proposed Faculty Senate Resolution XXX - Course levels in Graduate Programs. Dr. Chopra indicated that the only one that may need to go to Faculty Senate would be the resolution on the 5000 level or higher course requirement for graduate students. At the Steering Committee meeting on February 9, these resolutions will be shared with the Steering Committee members for further direction. Dr. Goodman will inform the Policy Committee of the outcome following this meeting.
- Recommendations of Policy Subcommittee concerning financial support for graduate assistants.** The committee then reviewed the list of problems and recommendations that were established from the recent graduate forum. There was a lengthy discussion on these issues. Dr. Bishop shared feedback that she had received from Human Resources regarding fringe benefits. These rates can be established for graduate assistants similar to what is done for faculty. She also had a discussion with them on whether the dollars could then be used for health insurance. The thing to consider was the fact that GRAs would be taxed on the value of the health insurance so this may not be the best approach. Discussion followed on the possibility of getting graduate assistants tied into the university health plan, the idea of giving a student a reimbursement of a certain dollar amount (IK) instead, and the possibility of getting our own health insurance plan and pay ½ and ½. The group decided that they need to look at some options of concrete amounts. A discussion was then held on the amount of hours that graduate students work and what options could be presented for this area. The group discussed the next problem on not enough tuition support to provide all graduate assistants with tuition waivers. The group agreed that offers need to get out to students if we are going to compete with other universities. Dollars need to be set aside for financial support. Have had problems with students complaining that offers of financial support are misleading. Graduate Studies will draft a document and an accompanying letter for new students which will be shared at the next strategic planning meeting.
- Review of two options.** The committee then reviewed two financial options. Option 1) university pays out-of-state for graduate assistants and Option 2) university pays in-state for graduate assistants. Discussions followed regarding these two options. The group discussed limiting the term for tuition waivers, prorating in-state and out of state, paying 80% and have the department pay 20% of the offer of assistantships, and paying 80% for GTAs and 75% on GRAs. Another suggestion was to provide an incentive to put tuition money in grants and this could be matched somewhere. Research dollars could be used for a 1 to 1 match for GRAs. Dr. Bishop will prepare an additional option 3 and will bring this back next time for review. Any additional ideas on these items should be directed to Dr. Bishop.
- Meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

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