

UCF Graduate Council

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GRADUATE POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of October 07, 2009 meeting

Members Present Patricia Bishop, Deborah Breiter, John C. Bricout, Jacquie Byers, Christopher Geiger, Stephanie Guittar, Jim Moharam, Eduardo Mucciolo, Eladio Scharron, Michael Stern

Recorder Rhonda Nelson

Staff Members Tracy Jones

Dr. Moharam, chair, called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. The minutes from the September 23 meeting were approved by voice vote.

1. **Doctoral Transfer Credits:** A discussion was held on doctoral transfer credits, specifically focusing on policies that apply to credits taken at UCF versus credits taken at other accredited universities. The committee agreed that it would be better to refer to the former type of transfer credits as "internal transfer credits" (formerly "residence" credits) and the latter type of transfer credits as "external transfer credits." The committee reviewed a comparison of the transfer credit policies of other institutions, and if both internal and external transfer credits were included in the GPA calculation. Dr. Stern described the different types of credits being discussed that can be brought into a program of study. He further explained how the GPA is currently being calculated at UCF (graduate status GPA). Tracy Jones clarified that if internal transfer credits were to be included in the GPA calculation, then all UCF graduate credits would have to be included in the calculation of the GPA for all UCF graduate students. The committee was inclined to continue to exclude all transfer credit from the GPA calculation. A small number of students might have a problem with having very few or no courses count toward their UCF GPA, but the vast majority of UCF graduate students would maintain the benefits of the graduate status GPA calculation. The committee renewed discussion of using 50% of program requirements as a limit on the total number of allowable transfer credits. A question was raised regarding whether 50% or a defined number should be used. Dr. Breiter pointed out that using 50% would cover a majority of the programs. The committee agreed that "up to 50%" was acceptable, and that programs should use their discretion about the credits that should be approved. A question was raised as to how enrollment in graduate certificates would be affected. The committee asked several additional questions regarding what other universities were doing with regard to GPA calculation for internal credits: are they calculating by level; by program; is there a limit; does GPA calculation start over? Dr. Moharam questioned whether it would be the student's option to include certain courses. Another topic of concern was whether to allow the transfer of UCF course credit if a student received a C grade. One suggestion was to calculate the GPA by level, not allowing the calculation to restart when a student entered a new program at the same level. That would mean that all master's credits would be included in the GPA calculation. Dr. Stern and Tracy Jones estimated for the committee that the Graduate Council Appeals Committee considers approximately 50-60 petitions involving transfer credit policy. The committee thought it would be helpful if the details could be researched as to how internal credits were included in the GPA at the comparison institutions. Dr. Stern will prepare an updated draft of the policy for the next meeting. The committee will conclude the discussion on whether internal C grade transfers should be allowed.

Next agenda item will be a discussion on dual degree programs.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

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