

UCF Graduate Council

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GRADUATE POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of November 09, 2011 meeting

Members Present

Jeffrey Bedwell, Patricia Bishop, Jacquie Byers, Linda Colding, Jim Moharam, Nicole Owens, Paul Rompf, Gerald Smith, Michael Stern

Recorder

Rhonda Nelson

Guests Present

Max Poole, Rich Gause, Tracy Jones

Welcome and call to order: Dr. Jim Moharam called the meeting to order and a quorum was established. The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and approved.

Discussion of Graduate Faculty/Graduate Faculty Scholar Status policy

The updates and changes to the policy that were agreed upon at the last meeting were reviewed and summarized. It was pointed out that university librarians were ranked faculty, but did not have multi-year contracts, and thus were not officially eligible to be appointed to the Graduate Faculty. Dr. Moharam asked that this issue be checked so that corrections could be made to ensure the inclusion of university librarians as eligible for Graduate Faculty status. The revised policy, with the pending changes, was approved by the unanimous vote of the committee. The committee requested to be informed regarding the appointment status of university librarians.

Criteria distinguishing Associate from Full Graduate Faculty

A handout was reviewed that compares the qualifications listed in the current Graduate Faculty policy for appointment as associate versus full graduate faculty. The only significant difference is that previous service on an advisory committee is required for appointment as Full Graduate Faculty. It was noted that this criterion often prohibits new young Assistant Professors from chairing dissertation committees when they first arrive at UCF. It was suggested that a vice-chair be assigned to the committee who can bring this kind of experience to the committee in such cases. The committee suggested drafting policy language to allow this and to consolidate the criteria common for all graduate faculty.

The committee then considered the qualifications that should distinguish full from associate graduate faculty appointments. The committee agreed that it was important to maintain two levels of Graduate Faculty, and that three criteria should be considered in determining the appropriate role for faculty to serve on advisory committees: (1) currency in active involvement in the discipline; (2) the amount of scholarship; and (3) the quality of the scholarship/expertise. Currency, judged by activity within the last 7 years, was agreed to be critical for service as chairs for both master's and doctoral committees. The committee also considered whether two categories of graduate faculty scholar appointments should be considered, depending on whether the appointee was UCF-affiliated (internal) or not (external). It was noted that there can be significant differences between the qualifications required to chair a thesis versus a dissertation committee.

Discussion and refinement of the drafted language will be continued at the next meeting. The committee recommended that the Program Review Committee review a draft of any proposed policy prior to a final vote.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on November 30. Comments may be sent to Jim Moharam or Michael Stern.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.