

UCF Graduate Council

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GRADUATE POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of January 23, 2013 meeting

Members Present Cheryl Cabrera, Youngsoo Choi, Kevin Coffey, Linda Colding, Juli Dixon, Steven Ebert, Loretta Forlaw, Jim Moharam, Gerald Smith, Joshua Solomon, Michael Stern

Recorder Rhonda Nelson

Staff Members Tracy Jones

Welcome and call to order: Chair Moharam called the meeting to order and a quorum was established. Minutes were reviewed and approved.

Integrity statement in syllabi. Reviewed current status following discussion from the last meeting (Student Services had proposed this and was seeking feedback).

H/P/F grading. Chair Moharam reported that the resolution passed by the ad hoc committee of the Faculty Senate limited the use of this grading scale to graduate courses. COHPA indicated that it may want to use this grading scale for certain courses in their Physical Therapy program. Chair Moharam indicated that some had voiced concerns that this grading scale would be used for core courses. Dr. Smith indicated that COHPA was only talking about clinical programs. Dr. Forlaw (CON) indicated that the PA undergraduate program might be similarly interested in using this grading scale in the future. There was discussion concerning how the Policy Committee could have input into the assignment of grading scales for graduate courses, and the text of the resolution was read to the committee members. Chair Moharam indicated that the Policy Committee's role was to share feedback with the ad hoc committee, and to adopt policies that could assist the Curriculum Committee in deciding in which instances an H/P/F grading scale option would be appropriate for graduate courses. Chair Moharam indicated that we could invite some additional people to attend the next ad hoc committee. Any suggestions from today would be taken back to the ad hoc committee.

Grading scale for research courses. Dr. Stern shared an analysis of grades assigned in non-thesis/dissertation research courses in Fall 2012. The comments received from the graduate faculty in response to an email seeking input on the proposed policy were shared with the committee. The drafted language was reviewed; the language revised in the disciplinary training section was discussed extensively, but ultimately decided to leave as drafted. The committee reaffirmed that the goal of the policy was to ensure that students in the same course section would be graded in a fair and equivalent manner. The drafted revisions were approved by the committee. This clarification will be effective upon publication of the new catalog in Summer 2013.

Graduate certificate policies. Dr. Stern overviewed the relationship between a Program of Study GPA and the official Graduate Status GPA for certificate students, and related several ambiguous certificate granting situations when these GPAs are below 3.0 or when students receive grades below B- in their certificate courses. The committee concurred with a comment by Dr. Coffey, that the awarding of a certificate, as opposed to a graduate program degree, should be based on the successful completion of the specified certificate courses, even if a course or courses needed to be repeated to obtain a successful grade. The committee agreed that certificates should be awarded based solely on the GPA in the certificate Program of Study, and that the reference to the Graduate Status GPA should be removed from the policy language. Revisions reflecting the decision of the committee will be brought to the next meeting for review.

Announcements and adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.