

UCF Graduate Council

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GRADUATE POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of February 19, 2014 meeting

Members Present Jeffrey Bedwell, Cheryl Cabrera, Linda Colding, Juli Dixon, Steven Ebert, Loretta Forlaw, C. Ross Hinkle, Jim Moharam, Cheyenne Ro

Recorder Rhonda Nelson

Staff Members Jana Jasinski

Welcome and call to order. Chair Moharam called the meeting to order and a quorum was established.

Approval of minutes. The minutes from the January 15 were reviewed and approved. No minutes were compiled for the February 5 meeting as a quorum was not obtained.

Continuous Enrollment policies for T/D students. Dr. Moharam continued the discussion of summer enrollment carried forward from the last meeting. It was noted that students that are on a GTA or GRA, must take 3 hours in summer. Some felt that there would be a drop in summer enrollment and tuition if a change was made regarding the summer enrollment requirement. Discussion was held on library access and the fact that students need to be enrolled to use university resources.

The committee then reviewed the draft of the policy that was compiled from the January 15 meeting. Comments from the discussion included:

- Summer enrollment numbers were pulled and 15% of doctoral and 13% of master's students did not sign up in summer.
- One question was if a student could skip summers before the start of their thesis/dissertation.
- A comment was that the policy didn't specify part-time or full-time status and if this should be clarified under enrollment.
- One member asked what defined an active student and whether this should be defined under the enrollment section.
- Another question raised was what was minimum number of hours in which a student could be enrolled.
- Another comment was that enrollment was defined as at least 1 credit hour per semester. The committee questioned whether this was UCF's policy or the state policy.
- It was mentioned that we need to ask for clarification on the thesis hours.
- Another comment was that it may be helpful to have someone from General Counsel on this committee to help with the wording of sentences.
- Another suggestion was that we should notify the Financial Aid office if a student was in post candidacy.
- Should a section be added for just part-time enrollment?

The policy was revised according to the comments and suggestions made from the committee. A new draft will be brought to the next meeting for continued discussion.

Requirement for students to be on campus to defend their thesis/dissertation. Dr. Hinkle indicated that in a recent Distance Learning meeting with Tom Cavanagh, a discussion was held on virtual students returning to campus to defend their thesis/dissertation. Dr. Hinkle raised the question to the committee on whether remote defenses should be accepted. He pointed out that that the College of Graduate Studies offers 24 online degrees. One item suggested was that that we should consider the technical equipment and whether the meeting place would have a 360 degree angle access so all parties could be seen. Another comment was that it would only be 1 meeting and 1 trip to campus. Another comment was whether or not the person defending was really the student if you had not met them before. An additional comment was that this will continue to come up as we add more programs. Dr. Hinkle indicated that he would also bring this item up with the graduate associate deans at their next meeting.

Announcements and adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

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