

UCF Graduate Council

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GRADUATE POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of November 04, 2015 meeting

Members Present

Karen Aroian, Christopher Atkinson, Yoon Choi, Kendall Cortelyou-Ward, Paul Dombrowski, Alan Fyall, Annette Khaled, Jim Moharam, Liqiang Ni, Andrew Randall

Recorder

Michele Pozdoll

Staff Members

Tracy Jones, Jana Jasinski, Rhonda Nelson

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

Approval of minutes from the last meeting. The minutes from our last meeting were reviewed and approved.

Doctoral students enrolled in fewer than 3 hours-This item was a request from the Appeals Committee. This was a carryover from last year. Some colleges have been enforcing this policy and some have not. (Tabled on 9/2). A lengthy discussion followed with several ideas and topics being discussed. This policy would be hard to enforce as different departments have different requirements and enrolling in less than 3 hours would not work for every program. Dr. Shah's suggestion was still being considered which was after a doctoral student has completed their required credits for the degree and has moved into candidacy, to allow the student with the approval of their advisor to take less than 3 credit hours. Some felt that the policy should be flexible. It was also pointed out that this would pose a problem with financial aid for those students taking less than 3 hours. International students are required to be full-time. The university should have a policy on what is full-time enrollment. Dr. Khaled stated she would draft a document and send out to the committee to read, review and be ready to vote on at the next meeting. She will highlight three points which included: leaving the policy as is since it would be difficult to enforce, relax the policy to have the advisor's consent, or Dr. Shah's suggestion of 3 credit hours until the defense, then allow 1 credit hour after that.

Other issues. Dr. Tracy Jones presented the committee with a format change to the catalog regarding the *Special Leave of Absence* policy. The only change was using bullets in the format. No content had been changed. The committee voted on the change and all approved.

Dr. Jasinski presented a few items for Dr. Shah and requested feedback from the committee regarding graduate faculty and graduate faculty scholars. One request was to allow graduate faculty serving on dissertation committees to also serve as chair of a committee even if it was outside of the student's college. Dr. Jasinski also presented a change to the graduate faculty current form which was to add a check box for "teaching only." If approved, the graduate faculty would not be able to chair a dissertation committee. There was a lengthy discussion on both items presented. The committee was not asked to vote but to provide their feedback. The committee agreed that it was not a good idea to have the box for "teaching only" added to the current graduate faculty form. Some felt that it should be addressed by the programs on whether or not to nominate a particular faculty to a committee. A question was brought up whether a change should be made to the faculty reappointment policy that the Program Review and Appeals Committee uses—7 years was too long. The item allowing graduate faculty outside of the student's college to serve as chair of a dissertation committee was met with mixed opinions from committee members. Dr. Jasinski asked the committee to reach out to their programs and departments for additional feedback.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 12:04 pm. The next meeting is set for December 9.

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