

# UCF Graduate Council

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## GRADUATE POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

### Minutes of February 01, 2006 meeting

Members Present Patricia Bishop, Jim Moharam

Recorder Rhonda Nelson

Guests Present Max Poole

Handouts: Recommendations for Financial Support for Graduate Assistants.

1. The meeting began at 11:30 a.m. in 243 Millican Hall. A quorum was established.
2. **Update from Stephen Goodman.** Dr. Goodman had additional conversation with Dr. Chopra regarding the three resolutions. Dr. Chopra had visited with some of the Steering Committee members regarding these. They also indicated that the more uniform policy for full-time status and the split level classes may not need to go to the Faculty Senate. The 5000 course level or higher may be the only one that will need to go forward. Dr. Goodman will give another update on this after the February 9 Steering Committee meeting. One of the concerns that Engineering had on the 5000 level policy was whether their students would then be able to take lower level classes outside of the Engineering college. Dr. Bishop reiterated the SACS accreditation policy that states that 30 semester hours at the post bac or graduate level is required. It does not indicate students can't take lower level classes, but only that these lower level classes could not be included in their program of study. The committee discussed the language that should be added to the policy chapter to clarify this. The agreed language to be added was "the POS will include at least 30 hours of graduate coursework (5000 level or higher). At least ½ of the POS must be at the 6000 level." This additional language was approved by the committee and will be added to the appropriate section. Dr. Bishop then agreed to draft a letter and forward to Dr. Goodman for the Steering Committee regarding the resolutions.
3. **Split level courses.** Dr. Bishop shared with the committee that she had asked the deans from each college for a list of all of their split level classes. The committee agreed that this information should be added to the graduate catalog, added to the course schedule listing, and should be noted when new courses or course changes go through the system. A comment was made that it would also be good to get documentation follow up after the classes were taught.
4. **Recommendations for Financial Support for Graduate Assistants.** Dr. Bishop indicated that she had made all of the recommendations from the last meeting regarding this document. She had also drafted an option 3: University pays a fraction for graduate assistants. The group discussed this third option in comparison to options 1 and 2. She indicated to the committee that she shared these options with the college coordinators and indicated that they were drafts only, and that other options may be considered. The committee discussed the cost for student health insurance at length. Dr. Poole shared information that he had received regarding costs for health insurance which would be around \$1874 for 1 student per year, with an additional cost of \$3,500 for the spouse. Dr. Bishop shared that she will be attending a graduate student forum in the next week or two, and that health insurance is one of the items on their agenda. Most international students are not using the current university plan as it is too expensive. Option 1 does not provide the health insurance option. The group discussed refiguring option 3 without including the health insurance in the allocation. A comparison was shared of what other institutions were doing in the state. UF and FIU are waiving all O/S tuition for their graduate students. USF is paying out of state as long as departments pay instate. And, FGCU is taking a similar plan to their board in the near future. The group discussed reworking option 1 and taking out instate tuition for GRAs. Dr. Bishop will check the figures on the cost of tuition for fellowship recipients area, as they may need to be updated. The group revisited the earlier suggestions of placing term limits on tuition and not paying full support options which would save about 1M. The group will look at option 1 further and rework this. More conversation continued on waiving the O/S tuition for doctorals first, then MAs after that. GTAs and GRAs would be up to the programs. The distribution for GTAs would be done in the same manner as what is distributed for GRAs. Dr. Bishop was asked to review the leftover amount for option 1 and redistribute those dollars. A growth amount will be computed for all of the years. This document will be reviewed again at the next meeting.
5. Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

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