

UCF Graduate Council

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GRADUATE POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of November 13, 2008 meeting

Members Present Patricia Bishop, John C. Bricout, Jim Moharam, Paul Rompf, Michael Stern, Vicky Zygouris-Coe

Recorder Tracy Jones

Staff Members Tracy Jones

1. Meeting began at 10am. Dr. Moharam, chair, asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was made, seconded and approved by voice vote.
2. Dr. Moharam asked everyone to review the latest draft of the course category definitions that included suggested revisions from the College Coordinators. Dr. Moharam also suggested including definitions for seminars and internships. Discussion continued regarding the use of internships as formal courses and formal course numbering assignments. Seminars would be included in the definition of a formal course. A motion was made to approve the course category definitions as amended, seconded and the committee voted to approve.
3. Discussion moved to the idea of allowing substitutions for core classes and the implications of any policy related to allowing or not allowing this practice. The committee discussed the viability of programs that are not able to offer core classes and restrictions that the college has placed on programs regarding the minimum number of students required to be enrolled in a course for it to be offered. This has led to the practice of faculty members offering independent study courses to replace core classes in programs. Dr. Sepulveda is uncomfortable not allowing independent study to be used for core classes since this reduces the flexibility of the programs meeting students' needs. Modifications were made to the master's policy to allow flexibility in the use of independent study hours toward core classes by stating that a maximum of six credit hours can be used in a program of study.
4. Dr. Moharam then led the committee in a discussion regarding doctoral program requirements and the difference in requirements for students that enter a doctoral program directly from a bachelor's degree versus the programs that require a master's degree to be admitted into a doctoral program.

The committee agreed on the language of the latest draft requiring a minimum of 27 hours of formal coursework and a university wide minimum of 15 credit hours of dissertation.

Dr. Bishop asked about including independent study in the minimum of 27 hours. Several committee members suggested including language that says the 27 hours of formal coursework excludes any independent study, thesis, and research hours.

Dr. Bowden asked if the 27 hours of coursework should be beyond the master's degree. Dr. Self suggested limiting the amount of transfer work for those programs that required a master's degree for entry into a doctoral program. This conversation will be held until the committee reviews the transfer of credit policy.

Dr. Goodman noted that the Independent Study Hours section in the doctoral program policies section is no longer needed with the new language in the program requirements section.
5. The committee touched on students' admission to candidacy and how the process and requirements are different across programs.

Dr. Self said that in his program that the candidacy examination includes students preparing a research proposal based on literature outside of their research area and program of study. Other committee members had similar requirements. The language regarding the candidacy examination requirements will be revised based on these comments.
6. Dr. Stern will prepare a final copy of the course definitions, a new draft of the master's and doctoral program policies and send it out before the next meeting on December 4, 2008.
7. The meeting adjourned at 11:35.

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