

UCF Graduate Council

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GRADUATE POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of December 09, 2009 meeting

Members Present Patricia Bishop, Deborah Breiter, John C. Bricout, Jacquie Byers, Stephanie Guittar, Eduardo Mucciolo, Saleh Naser, Eladio Scharron, Michael Stern, Vicky Zygouris-Coe

Recorder Rhonda Nelson

Staff Members Tracy Jones

Dr. Mucciolo chaired the meeting in Dr. Moharam's absence. The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. A quorum was established. The minutes from the November 18 meeting were approved by voice vote.

Schedule for next semester. The schedule for next semester was distributed. All meetings will again be held on Wednesdays, 3:30-5:00, in MH 327.

Transfer Credit Policy. Dr. Stern reminded everyone that at the last meeting the Transfer Credit Policy was approved. The committee had also agreed to send it out to the programs for their review. The document was sent out to the programs. Dr. Stern stated that only a handful of responses had been received, and all the issues raised had previously been fully considered by the committee. He shared all of the questions and responses received with the committee. The policy would be submitted to the Faculty Senate Steering Committee by Dr. Moharam.

Review of Dual Degree Policy.

Overview: Dr. Stern distributed and explained a handout on Shared Credit. He pointed out that a student who graduates from a dual degree program would receive two diplomas, while a student would receive only one diploma from a joint degree program. Dr. Bishop pointed out that UCF has the following dual degree programs: a new program with MNM and MPA, and the Optics master's program with Bordeaux, Friedrich Schiller, Clemson, and UCF.

Triple dipping: Dr. Mucciolo posed the question of how much overlap should be allowed regarding courses. Dr. Stern brought up a point regarding triple dipping and gave some examples of this. A question was asked if a class could be used 3 times from an accelerated bachelor's, to a master's, and then to a Ph.D. The committee unanimously agreed that a policy statement should be drafted explicitly prohibiting triple dipping.

Accelerated Bachelor's Master's programs: Dr. Bishop gave examples of accelerated programs that have already been approved: Engineering has accelerated programs which share 12 hours; and Nursing has programs which share 15 hours. A percentage limit for shared credits was suggested by Dr. Breiter and discussed by the committee. Dr. Byers pointed out that for their RN to MSN, they count 12 hours. She indicated that they do not have a lot of students who actually do this (for Nursing, this is a non thesis program with a capstone). The committee agreed that only "outstanding students" should be given permission to enter accelerated bachelor's/master's programs. The committee agreed to use this language in the policy, rather than adopting a specific metric for what qualified a student for these programs. Dr. Byers indicated that any shared credits needed to be supported strongly by a description of "curricular rationale." The committee agreed to adopt this language. Dr. Bishop asked the committee if they needed more data on accelerated programs. Dr. Mucciolo favored keeping with limiting shared credits to 9 hours. Dr. Breiter indicated that she liked Nursing's approach of 25% of the credit hours being used in both the bachelor's and master's. Dr. Byers indicated that it should be decided on a case-by-case basis, justified by a compelling "curricular rationale."

Dr. Naser noted that students can transfer 9 hours into a program that requires up to 36 SCH. Thus, it made sense to limit shared credit in accelerated programs to 9 SCH for master's programs requiring 36 SCH or fewer. For master's programs that require more than 36 SCH, shared credit in accelerated programs should be limited to 12 SCH. Previously-approved accelerated programs would be grandfathered.

Admission to dual degree programs: It was suggested that a joint admissions committee may be needed to review applicants to these programs. Dr. Naser noted that it may be good to do some additional research to see what other dual degree programs involve Ph.D. programs.

Adjournment: The committee will continue to review the dual degree policy at the next meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

