

UCF Graduate Council

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GRADUATE POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of February 17, 2010 meeting

Members Present

Patricia Bishop, Deborah Breiter, John C. Bricout, Jacquie Byers, Christopher Geiger, Wendi Kane, Jim Moharam, Saleh Naser, Eladio Scharron, Michael Stern, Vicky Zygouris-Coe

Staff Members

Tracy Jones

Dr. Moharam called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. A quorum was established. The minutes from the February 3rd meeting were approved by voice vote. Dr. Moharam announced that the Steering Committee of the Faculty Senate had approved both the Transfer Credit Policy and the Dual Degree Shared Credit Policy as informational items for the February 25th meeting of the Faculty Senate.

Graduate Z grade policy. Dr. Moharam reported on the discussions of the Faculty Senate Steering Committee on the proposed Z grade policy: (1) that he had informed the committee that the Graduate Council had opted to postpone adoption of a Z grade policy for graduate students; and (2) that the committee had requested to see the final revised Z grade policy for undergraduates.

Dr. Bishop noted that she would like any academic integrity policy to be developed within a framework of clear guidelines and a training program for students. Graduate Studies will look at other universities for a variety of examples of guidelines.

Several suggestions were mentioned for the guidelines:

- The guidelines should be a general statement, but not a list that could be seen as comprehensive;
- A general statement could be included on the syllabus of every course.

New faculty, including new adjunct faculty, would need to be introduced to the academic integrity guidelines and process.

The committee agreed to three essential elements to a policy on academic integrity:

1. Students deserve the right to due process;
2. The process needs to have two levels – one for decision, one for review;
3. The process should be fundamentally different from the grade appeal process.

It was suggested that a Graduate Academic Integrity Board should be established that would be responsible for the review of cases. This board would be outside of the Graduate Council committees, would be made up of longer-term members, at least some of whom had specific expertise and/or training in these issues, and would be properly structured.

Relevant, existing structures at UCF, such as the ethics IF module, could be incorporated into the training program for all graduate students.

Master's along-the-way: The committee agreed that a student could only be awarded one master's degree along-the-way to a doctoral degree. The committee discussed which master's degree programs would be eligible for such a degree and decided that students would be eligible for a master's degree within their doctoral degree program (e.g. Physics Master's as part of a Physics Ph.D. program). For any other master's degree program in the same discipline, the master's degree program and the College of Graduate Studies must accept the credentials of the doctoral student as well as agree to the satisfactory fulfillment of the master's degree requirements. The only allowable substitutions are higher level courses for lower level substitutions within the same course type, and up to 9 SCH of non-formal coursework.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.