

UCF Graduate Council

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GRADUATE POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of March 23, 2011 meeting

Members Present

Patricia Bishop, Jacquie Byers, Debopam Chakrabarti, Mary Ann Feldheim, Stephanie Guittar, Jim Moharam, Eduardo Mucciolo, Paul Rompf, Eladio Scharron, Alejandro Sepulveda, Michael Stern, Axel Stock, Vicky Zygouris-Coe

Recorder

Rhonda Nelson

Call to order. Dr. Moharam called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. A quorum was established.

The minutes of the meeting held on March 9 were reviewed and approved.

Report on ethics resolution. Dr. Moharam gave a report on the ethics resolution, Graduate Training Requirement in Academic Integrity and the Responsible Conduct of Research, that was considered by the Steering Committee at their March 3, 2011 meeting. The Steering Committee requested amending the resolution by deleting the final sentence describing the specific components of the required ethics training. After approval by the Steering Committee, the resolution was sent forward to the Faculty Senate meeting and passed with no concerns. Dr. Moharam indicated that he and Dr. Stern will meet with Dr. Pennington to clarify what types of items coming from the Policy Committee in the future would need review by the Steering Committee.

Non-degree admission and dismissal policies. The committee reviewed the updated draft of these policies. Dr. Stern clarified for the committee how the cumulative GPA is calculated by the registrar, specifying that the graduate cumulative GPA includes all courses taken while a student is matriculated in graduate status. The committee suggested: (1) inserting an explanation of the cumulative GPA at the point at which it is mentioned in the policy; and (2) having separate sections for the policies affecting non-degree and degree-seeking students. The committee discussed how the colleges track non-degree students. The committee decided on two readmission policies for students dismissed from non-degree status: (1) such students would have to wait one full year from the term of dismissal for readmission; or (2) could petition the Graduate College for earlier readmission. The committee discussed limiting non-degree students to one readmission petition and one readmission. The committee approved the discussed changes. Dr. Moharam then asked Dr. Stern to incorporate the changes into a new draft of the policy and send to the committee for approval by email. Dr. Moharam pointed out that these revisions would not require Steering Committee approval as this type of change was considered clarification of existing policy.

Other business. Dr. Moharam pointed out that the committee had addressed everything that was on the agenda this year except for student employment issues. He encouraged committee members to send forward any additional issues that could be considered for next year. The committee agreed to cancel the last meeting scheduled for April 13.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Email continuation for approval of the non-degree dismissal policy.

Dr. Stern circulated the updated non-degree policy draft by email to the committee with the following summary of changes:

1. The draft splits those policies that apply to non-degree status students and those that apply to degree-seeking students.
2. We have defined the cumulative GPA where it appears in the policy.
3. Students dismissed from non-degree status must wait 1 year before being eligible for readmission to non-degree status. Exceptions to this must be petitioned to the Graduate College. Students dismissed from degree programs do NOT have to wait 1 year before being eligible for admission to non-degree status.
4. The cumulative GPA will be used for dismissal if it falls below 2.0, but not for probation if it falls below 3.0 – only the graduate status GPA will be used to place students on probation. The cumulative GPA is, thus, used only in those situations in which students are abusing their graduate non-degree status to take undergraduate classes in a dramatically unsuccessful manner.
5. This draft does not incorporate the discussion we had about limiting the number of times a student can be dismissed from non-degree status and reapply. This is complicated to track, and is not a frequent problem. Furthermore, the newly-instituted requirement to wait a full year for readmission should itself dissuade students from reapplying multiple times.

The Non-Degree Dismissal Policy was formally approved by the committee, having received seven votes to approve the policy (with one word change) and no negative votes.

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