

# UCF Graduate Council

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## GRADUATE POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

### Minutes of February 22, 2012 meeting

**Members Present** Jeffrey Bedwell, Juli Dixon, Steven Ebert, Jim Moharam, Nicole Owens, Paul Rompf, Gerald Smith, Michael Stern

**Recorder** Rhonda Nelson

**Staff Members** Tracy Jones

**Members Present:** Jim Moharam, Jeff Bedwell, Juli Dixon, Gerald Smith, Steve Ebert, Paul Rompf, Nicole Owens, Michael Stern

**Welcome and call to order:** Dr. Jim Moharam called the meeting to order and a quorum was established. The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and approved.

**Finalize Graduate Faculty/Graduate Faculty Scholar policy.** Dr. Moharam asked Dr. Stern to summarize the three changes that were agreed upon at the last meeting. Dr. Moharam indicated that a section was also added to clarify the process of how graduate faculty scholars are nominated. The language describing acceptable attendance at dissertation defenses was discussed and left unchanged. The committee agreed to include explicit language stating that Graduate Faculty Scholars can serve as Vice Chairs on thesis and dissertation committees. Additional minor changes were discussed and agreed upon. The policy was approved unanimously with no abstentions, pending inclusion of the agreed upon revisions. If approved by the Faculty Senate and the Provost, this revised policy will go into effect with the May catalog. Program-specific criteria for eligibility to serve as dissertation advisors will be collected in the summer. New committees assembled starting in Fall 2012 will follow the newly revised policy.

**Clarification of the 7 year expiration of credit.** The committee was asked to consider whether courses that are part of master's degrees awarded "along-the-way" should be exempt from the 7 year rule. Long-standing policy currently exempts courses that are part of an earned master's degree. The policy is not explicit for credits earned in a master's degree awarded "along-the-way", but these credits are being handled as being exempt from expiration. A number of scenarios were considered for students in doctoral programs:

1. Student does not have a master's degree – credits expire after 7 years.
2. Student earned a master's degree prior to entering the doctoral program - those credits do not expire. The master's degree could have been earned at UCF or elsewhere.
3. Student enters a doctoral program without a master's degree and earns the master's degree "along-the-way."

The committee agreed that credits earned as part of a master's degree "along-the-way" should be similarly exempt from expiring. Dr. Moharam pointed out that this would be a clarification in this policy and likely would not have to go to the Faculty Senate.

**Graduate Student Bill of Rights.** This will be discussed at the next meeting. A copy of the Graduate Student Bill of Rights will be re-sent to committee members. Nicole suggested inviting Sergio Tafur, former GSA member and active on the Graduate Student Advisory Board, to present this issue to the committee at the upcoming meeting.

### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on March 14. Comments may be sent to Jim Moharam or Michael Stern.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.