

**GRADUATE POLICY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
April 1, 2013**

The following members were present: David Johnson, English, Chair; Nancy Marcus, Dean, The Graduate School; Gerrie Houlihan, Visual Arts; Sudhir Aggarwal, Computer Science; Tomi Gomory, Social Work; Elwood Carlson, Sociology; Jamila Horabin, Biomedical Science; Ron Doel, Arts and Sciences; Karla Schmitt, Nursing; William Fredrickson, Music; Nancy Everhart, Communication and Information; Bong-Soo Lee, Business; Diana Rice, Education; Linda DeBrunner, Engineering; Jasminka Ilich-Ernst, Human Sciences; Kaifeng Yang, Social Science

The following members were absent: Elizabeth Burch, Law; Brian Gaber, Film/Music; Sherry Southerland, Education; Patricia Born, Business; Stanley Gontarski, Arts and Sciences; Marc Gertz, Criminology; Gary Burnett, Communication & Information; Peter Hoeflich, Physics

Also present: Colin Creasy, The Graduate School; Judy Devine, The Graduate School; Jennifer Buchanan, Faculty Development and Advancement; Alma Littles, Medicine; Graham Patrick, Medicine

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 P.M by David Johnson, Chair.

College of Medicine Transfer Student Policy – Dean Marcus explained that this proposed policy was in reaction to SACS requirements that all programs have policies in place for accepting transfer students/credits.

It was moved by Dr. Fredrickson and seconded by Dr. Doel to accept the policy:

In rare cases a student may petition to be accepted to the COM and transfer credits from another institution. Transfer credits will be considered only for first year or second year courses. Requests for credit will be evaluated on a course-by-course basis, and the College of Medicine reserves the right to determine which credits would be accepted. Transfer credit will be limited to a maximum of the equivalent of two years of coursework.

Dean Marcus added that this 2 year limit was beyond the normal limits for graduate transfers.

Dr. Littles explained that this policy mirrored AAMC policies, but noted that the COM has never accepted a transfer student at this point. Dr. Patrick added that the COM does have “internal guidelines” for transfers which include previous work at a LCMA accredited college, Florida-residency, and a good academic standing.

Dr. Johnson asked why no transfer applicant has yet to be accepted. Dr. Patrick explained that they either were coming from a non-LCMA accredited college or they were not in good academic standing.

Dr. Gomory questioned allowing a student with 2 years of instruction at a different institution to earn a FSU graduate degree. Dr. Littles explained that the 2 year mark was a “natural break” between foundational and clinical instruction, and Dr. Patrick added that all students take national board exams after two years which assesses their instruction up until that point.

Dr. Buchanan asked if professional behavior standards were considered. Dr. Little explained that they were considered as well.

Passed

Main Campus Degree Proposal for Off-campus Site Form – Dean Marcus explained that the new form for graduate degrees offered at off-campus sites was modeled after the distance learning proposal, adding that some tweaks to allow for interdisciplinary programs and program directors could be necessary. She added that the program that initiated this new form, International Affairs at Panama City, Panama, was submitted and approved by SACS in 2005. Dr. Johnson explained that many of the concerns the GPC might have with distance learning are the same concerns they would have with an off-campus site.

Dr. Schmitt asked what the next step would be if this form was approved. Dean Marcus explained that if approved, the International Affairs program at Panama City, Panama would need to be submitted to the GPC and address the questions contained in the new proposal form.

Dr. Everhart asked if this new proposal form addressed the language of instruction. Dr. Johnson explained that the program would be taught in English, and added that those questions fall under the “explain differences” section. Dr. Gomory argued the FSU only offers programs with instruction in English. Dr. Carlson added that the GPC could inquire about the language of instruction (if it was not explicitly stated in the proposal) when it came to them for approval. Dean Marcus noted that Panama City, Panama’s instruction up to this point has been in English, adding that the campus currently offers 5-6 Bachelor’s degrees taught by a “large cohesive faculty.”

Dr. Horabin asked if the instructors who have requested GTS status speak English. Dean Marcus explained that she believed this to be the case.

It was moved and seconded by the subcommittee to accept the new proposal form.

Note; Subsequent to the meeting it was determined that there is specific language in the Graduate Bulletin indicating that English is the language of instruction and communication at the University.

Passed

SACS Core Standards Policies – Dean Marcus explained that some people at the university were concerned that FSU needed to have explicitly stated policies for all of the SACS core requirements and comprehensive standards. She noted that this would necessitate approval in the near future of numerous policy statements by the GPC if the university administration decides that such policies are indeed required.

Dr. Johnson asked for an example of such a policy. Dean Marcus explained that there were “pages” of comprehensive standards, noting that one possible policy would address the issue of the “curriculum at post-baccalaureate level to be more advanced” e.g., Masters, Specialist, and PhD programs were progressively more advanced.

Dr. Buchanan suggested that one method for addressing such issues may be to identify the “progression of authority” rather than itemizing and addressing each possible issue, such as in the case of student complaints.

With no new business to be presented, Dr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 4:30 P.M.