GRADUATE POLICY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 24, 1997

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Jayne Standley, Chair
Tom Vickers
Steve Edwards
Tonya Harris
Ken Brewer
Valliere Richard Auzenne
Robert Zmud
Mark Seidenfeld
Elizabeth Platt
George Bates
Elizabeth Goldsmith
Karen Laughlin
Neil Abell
Gloria Grizzle
William Summers
Alan R. Mabe

ALSO PRESENT:
Donna Wieckowicz
Ann Durham
Lee Stepina
Lloyd Epstein
Richard Chackerian
Betty Smith
Donna Christie

The meeting was called to order at 3:40 P.M. Ms. Standley called upon Ms. Donna Christie to present the College of Law's revised request for a change in its grading and course numbering procedures so as to conform to University and SUS requirements. Ms. Christie submitted the proposal requesting that the College of Law be permitted to convert to using numbers on the transcripts vs. letters. The GPC reviewed the request and had some questions regarding the grading system chart that was attached to the request. Ms. Christie responded by saying that the chart is only for the law school faculty in helping them with the grading procedure. After a brief discussion Mr. Zmud moved that the request from the College of Law to use their grading system for the official grades and transcripts of law students be approved. The motion was seconded by Ms. Auzenne and passed. Ms. Standley informed the GPC that the recommendation will be presented to the Faculty Senate for final approval.

Ms. Standley then called upon Mr. Stepina to present the report on the doctoral review of Public Administration. Mr. Stepina reported that the level of scholarship of the faculty and the training provided to the students is excellent. He went on to say that the objectives of the program are all being achieved despite limited resources. He referred the committee to the recommendations.

The floor was opened to questions. Questions concerning availability of teaching assistantships, and shortage of faculty were raised. Mr. Chackerian, faculty member of the program and member of the review subcommittee, responded by saying that a majority of the graduate students are part-time because of working full-time outside the University. He feels
that if the program could offer the graduate students more assistantships then the part-time to full-time student ratio would improve, but presently the department does not have the funding. The problem with faculty shortages has improved since the report was written. Two of the faculty lines are now in the process of being filled, with only one position still needed.

Recommendations:

It was moved by Mr. Summers and seconded by Ms. Auzenne to recommend that the Ph.D program in Public Administration be continued and strengthened.

Passed

Recommendation 1, That the Collins Center and the Institute of Government should be integrated into the School of Public Administration, was not considered by the committee as this move has already been accomplished.

It was moved by Ms. Platt and seconded by Ms. Laughlin to accept recommendation 2 which reads:

That the doctoral directive status of Berry, Bowman, Chackerian, Coursey, deHaven-Smith, Feick, Grizzle and Klay be continued.

Passed

It was moved by Ms. Harris and seconded by Mr. Brewer to accept recommendation 3 which reads:

Three additional faculty positions should be funded and filled by the School. One of the positions should be in the human resource area.

The committee questioned the need for this recommendation since two positions are being filled. It was pointed out to the committee that the program needs a faculty position in the human resource area. After the departure of two faculty members in that area the program has been providing some work without the benefit of additional faculty. After a brief discussion Ms. Goldsmith moved the following substitute motion.

The school should pursue filling vacant lines with special attention to the human resource area.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Zmud and passed.

It was moved by Ms. Harris and seconded by Mr. Summer to accept recommendation 4 which reads:
The school should develop additional mechanisms to integrate students into the academic life of the school.

Passed

It was moved by Ms. Auzenne and seconded by Ms. Harris to accept recommendation 5 which reads:

The school should secure more funding to provide assistantships to doctoral students.

Passed

It was moved by Ms. Harris and seconded by Ms. Goldsmith to accept recommendation 6 which reads:

Course offerings at the doctoral level should occur at regular, predictable times in a student's program.

Passed

Prior to moving recommendation 7 regarding course content the committee requested clarification and was advised that the students felt that there is a problem with the availability of specialization courses and with the frequency of offerings of some of the required core courses. After a brief discussion Mr. Mabe moved that recommendation 7 as reworded be accepted.

Course content of sequenced core courses should be standardized across instructors.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Zmud and passed with one no vote.

It was moved by Ms. Goldsmith and seconded by Ms. Laughlin to accept recommendation 8 as reworded, which reads:

The school should seek more space in the Bellamy Building to more adequately house both its current operations as well as its related Centers.

Passed

Prior to moving recommendation 9 the committee felt that a statement concerning yearly evaluation of the programs graduate students should be added. It was pointed out to the program that it is a University requirement to prepare yearly evaluations of progress to date on their graduate students.

It was moved by Ms. Harris and seconded by Ms. Platt to accept recommendation 9 as reworded, which reads:
The school should insure that all doctoral students receive regular advising and yearly evaluations.

Passed

It was moved by Ms. Harris and seconded by Mr. Zmud to accept recommendation 10 which reads:

The school needs to expand computer laboratory facilities including space and equipment for computer based instruction.

Passed

Ms. Standley thanked the review subcommittee and called upon Mr. Mabe to bring before the committee for consideration the final revision of the University-wide Standards for Teaching Assistants at Florida State University. The question concerning what problems this new proposal might cause English was raised. Ms. Laughlin responded by saying that the English department is working out the details and most likely will have some budgetary problems. It was further discussed that if other unforeseen problems develop in the future, that the issue could be brought before the GPC at a later date for revision. It was moved by Mr. Seidenfeld to approve the University-wide Standards for Teaching Assistants at Florida State University. The motion was seconded by Ms. Goldsmith and passed. Ms. Standley informed the GPC that the recommendation will be presented to the Faculty Senate for final approval.

The committee briefly discussed the issue of allowing the program in Curriculum and Instruction to amend the admission standards for mature students that was brought to the GPC by Ms. Platt. The committee informed Ms. Platt that this is not an issue that the GPC can recommend. Mr. Mabe advised the committee that he would call Mr. Tobin and make some suggestions that may help the program.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 P.M.