

**GRADUATE POLICY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
April 5, 2004**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

George Bates, Chair, Biology
Dianne Harrison, Graduate Studies
Bettye Anne Case, Math
Dianne Speake, Nursing
Scott Ryan, Social Work
Emily Haymes, Nutrition
Mary Karen Dahl, Theatre
John Geringer, Music
Jack Fiorito, Business
David Johnson, English
Anne Rowe, Dean of Faculties
Gary Kleck, Criminology
Flip Froelich, Oceanography
Elizabeth Platt, Education
John Sobanjo, Engineering
Benjamin Priester, Law
Anne Rowe, Dean of Faculties

ALSO PRESENT:

Judith Devine
Lisa Beverly
Ruth Feiock
Philip Bowers
Donald Foss
Carolyn Herrington
Richard Kunkel
Kim Barber
Sam Huckaba
Cheryl Beeler
Chuck Imwold
DeWitt Sumners
Damian Nastri

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Bates at 3:38 P.M.

Mathematics Review – Dr. Bates introduced DeWitt Sumners, Chair of the Mathematics Department, John Elam the chair of the GPC subcommittee and Donald Foss, Dean of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Elam reported on the review.

Dr. Elam noted that the current production of Ph.D.'s per year is below par. However, the addition of two tracks, Financial Math and Biomedical Math, leads to an anticipated increase in Ph.D. enrollment. There is a six (6) year average length of time between the M.S. and the Ph.D. The graduate student placement is good.

It was reported that the recruiting is mixed and unequal, as the new tracks are developing and some students are moving from Pure Math and Applied Math to the two new tracks. There has been an increase in students in Financial Math and Biomedical Math. Pure Math factors in the departments national rankings.

It was also reported that the professional preparation of the department's graduate students is very good. There are efforts made to have students attend seminars and national conferences. The professional preparation of Financial Math doctoral students is different from the other areas. Students in Financial Math are seeking employment in financial professions rather than in academia. The students identified a need for space for meetings and teleconferences to assist them in their professional preparation.

In the area of curriculum, it was reported that some faculty would like certain core courses for all tracks. Other faculty feel there should be specific core courses for each track. r. Elam reported that the spreading out of the core curriculum may cause problems with meeting enrollment. The enrollment of students from other department has declined as other departments develop their own courses tailored to their students needs.

It was reported that overall, the Math Department's graduate students are pleased with their experiences.

Dr. Elam informed the GPC that the faculty research is in line with the outside reviewer's expectations. It was noted that there is a discrepancy with research assignments and the actual research conducted. It was suggested that the department may want to review this process. There is a concern regarding the overall salary levels.

In the area of teaching, it was noted that doctoral students tend to gravitate toward certain faculty members. The department has a growing teaching load, mostly in undergraduate courses and service courses. The department has increased the number of adjuncts to accommodate the teaching load. There is some concern over the student to faculty ratio.

It was reported that there is a considerable amount of service provided by the department faculty. It was also noted that the greatest concern in the department seems to be about space and its negative impact on recruiting. Space constraints and the scattering of the offices have led to some problems with gaining research support.

Dr. Bates opened the floor to questions and comments. It was reported that the department expects to double the number of Ph.D. graduates this year. It was also noted that the outside reviewer pointed out that the VIGOR program helps with recruiting but FSU does not have the advantage of that program.

Recommendations:

It was **moved** by Dr. Bates and **seconded** by Dr. Johnson to accept the following recommendation which reads:

The doctoral program in Mathematics should be continued. Doctoral directive status should be continued for the following faculty: Ettore Aldrovandi, Paolo Aluffi, Richard Bertram, Steve Blumsack, Phil Bowers, Bettye Anne Case, Gordon Erlebacher, Sergio Fenley, Max Gunzburger, Wolfgang Heil, Eriko Hironaka, Mark van Hoeij, Sam Huckaba, Monica Hurdal, Yousuff Hussaini, Alec Kercheval, Eric Klassen, David Kopriva, Mike Mesterton-Gibbons, Washington Mio, Mike Navon, Warren Nichols, Craig Nolder, Dan Oberlin, Janet Peterson, Jack Quine, Mika Seppälää, DeWitt Sumners, Mark Sussman, Chris Tam, and Qi Wang. The Mathematics Department should review the doctoral directive status eligibility of Drs. Bellenot and Magnan to determine whether DDS continuance is appropriate on the basis of current scholarly activity and service on doctoral committees.

Passed with one abstention

It was **moved** Dr. Johnson and **seconded** by Dr. Geringer to accept the following recommendation which reads:

The Mathematics Department and the College should work together to identify solutions to the space problems and physical dislocation faced by the Mathematics Department.

Passed with one abstention

It was moved by Dr. Bates and seconded by Dr. Geringer to accept the following recommendation which reads:

The department should continue to work to increase resources for doctoral student support on fellowships or grants.

Passed with one abstention

It was moved by Dr. Johnson and seconded by Dr. Dahl to accept the following recommendation which reads:

The Math Department should examine research assignments in relation to research activity to determine whether the two correspond sufficiently well and whether changes in assignments might be advisable to further graduate education.

Passed with one abstention

It was **moved** by Dr. Johnson and **seconded** by Dr. Geringer to accept the following recommendation which reads:

The faculty are strongly encouraged to develop strategies for recruiting and student training that maintain an active, vigorous program in training pure mathematicians.

Passed with one abstention

It was **moved** by Dr. Geringer and **seconded** by Dr. Johnson to accept the following recommendation which reads:

The Math faculty should continue to monitor the placement and success of the Financial Math graduates and use this information to refine and develop the department's curriculum and training plan to optimize the balance between mathematical rigor and adequate job placement and professional training.

Passed with one abstention

It was **moved** by Dr. Johnson and **seconded** by Dr. Speake to accept the following recommendation which reads:

Faculty in the Mathematics Department should be encouraged to continue their discussions about moving toward a partial common core of courses for doctoral students in all areas.

Passed with one abstention

It was **moved** by Dr. Johnson and **seconded** by Dr. Geringer to accept the following recommendation which reads:

The Mathematics Department should continue to work with the College and the University administrators to better integrate into the Mathematics Department those faculty with joint appointments.

Passed with one abstention

Recreation and Leisure Studies Administration Review – Dr. Bates introduced the Recreation and Leisure Studies Administration Program Director, Cheryl Beeler, Charles Imwold, Chair of the Department of Sport Management, Recreation Management and Physical Education, Carolyn Herrington, Associate Dean and Richard Kunkel, Dean of the College of Education. Dr. Bates informed the GPC that Recreation and Leisure Studies Administration is a master's only program, with a long and solid history and steady enrollment. Currently, the program has 80-90 undergraduate majors and 12 master's degree students. It is a practice oriented master's program with options for thesis and non-thesis tracks. Most students choose the non-thesis track.

Dr. Bates reported that there have been recent faculty changes but the faculty number still remains at six. One faculty member is due to retire in one year and another is close to retirement placing the program in a transitional period.

The program has moved between departments in the College of Education. Most recently, it moved to the Department of Sport Management, Recreation Management and Physical Education and the faculty physically moved offices to Tulley Gym.

It was noted that the program has good alumni support. The program has focused on training students. The practice-oriented degree has not allowed faculty to be as engaged in research as the University expects. Dr. Bates reported that the department should transition into increasing scholarly activities in order to replace faculty, scholarship will have to come forth.

Dr. Bates informed the GPC that from an academic point of view, there are no concerns with the program.

Recommendations:

It was moved by Dr. Johnson and seconded by Dr. Haymes to accept the following recommendation which reads:

The master's program in Recreation and Leisure Services Administration should be continued.

Passed

It was moved by Dr. Johnson and seconded by Dr. Geringer to accept the following recommendation which reads:

The faculty in Recreation and Leisure Services Administration must focus more on scholarly research activity.

Passed

It was **moved** by Dr. Johnson and **seconded** by Dr. Platt to accept the following recommendation which reads:

The program faculty should consider changes in the program and in courses that could enhance the research focus and increase scholarly activity.

Passed

It was **moved** by Dr. Johnson and **seconded** by Dr. Platt to accept the following recommendation which reads:

The department should find a way to notify students of the availability of as many stipends as possible in February or March of the academic year so that these stipends can be used to recruit new graduate students.

Passed

It was **moved** by Dr. Johnson and **seconded** by Dr. Platt to accept the following recommendation which reads:

The department should move toward obtaining doctoral directive status for RLSA faculty within the doctoral program in Physical Education by assigning RLSA faculty as additional members to doctoral committees.

Passed

It was **moved** by Dr. Johnson and **seconded** by Dr. Geringer to accept the following recommendation which reads:

The Department of Sport Management, Recreation Management and Physical Education should explore the appropriate commonalities between the existing programs in Recreation and Leisure Services Administration, Sport Management and Physical Education.

Passed

Forgiveness Policy – At the 3/22/04 meeting, a motion by Dr. Orcutt to eliminate the current Forgiveness Policy was tabled. The current policy states,

A graduate student may repeat one time a course in which a grade of "C+" (2.25) or lower has been made. The course shall be repeated on a letter-grade basis. Only the grade and credit received in the second attempt shall be used in computing the overall grade point average. However, the original grade will remain posted on the student's permanent record, but will not be used in computing the overall grade point average. A student may repeat no more than two courses under this rule, and no course in which a grade of "B–" (2.75) or above was received may be repeated to improve the grade. If this *Graduate Bulletin* specifically allows additional credit for repetition of a course, each repetition shall be used in computing the grade point average unless the student has prior permission from the Dean of Graduate Studies to take the course to improve the grade. Grades earned at another institution cannot be used to improve a grade point average or eliminate a quality point deficiency at The Florida State University.

A student is required to submit to the Office of the University Registrar a forgiveness repeat request using the FSYOU! website at <http://www.studentsfirst.fsu.edu> or the signed form for grade forgiveness by the midterm date of that term in which the course is being repeated. At any time prior to that midterm date, the student may also submit a written request to cancel the signed form for grade forgiveness for that course, but no change will be allowed after the midterm date.

In the discussion, it was noted that only a small number of graduate students actually use the policy. The Undergraduate Policy Committee and the Faculty Senate have approved the elimination of the Forgiveness Policy for undergraduate students, effective Fall 2004. Dr. Bates introduced Ms. Kim Barber from the Registrar's Office. She reported that the Registrar's Office does not foresee any problems with eliminating the forgiveness policy for graduate students and it is the preference of the Registrar's Office to have a consistent policy for undergraduate and graduate students. The floor was opened for discussion. It was noted that the new policy changing the drop date from the fourth to the seventh week should reduce the need for a forgiveness policy. Other universities policies vary. Of the 23 universities whose forgiveness policies were evaluated, only seven institute a forgiveness policy.

It was **moved** by Dr. Case and **seconded** by Dr. Johnson to eliminate the existing forgiveness policy for graduate students.

Passed

Ms. Barber informed the GPC that if this recommendation is approved by the Faculty Senate, The Office of the University Registrar will discontinue accepting applications from Graduate Students for use of the Forgiveness Policy at the end of Summer 2004.

Current Graduate Students will have one academic year (Fall 2004 – Summer 2005) to repeat a course normally eligible for application of the Forgiveness Policy with the option to petition their

Academic Dean, after the 7th week of the semester in which the course is being repeated, to drop the first attempt reflecting a WD grade. (This would be pro-rated so a student who has used the Forgiveness Policy once, gets one drop; the student who has not used the Forgiveness Policy gets two drops.)

Reinstatement – Dean Harrison reported that a proposal was made by the Council of Associate and Assistant Deans to review the current Reinstatement Policy for Graduate Students. The current policy (as reflected in the *Graduate Bulletin 2003-2005*) on page 64, under “Suspension, Dismissal, and Reinstatement,” reads as follows:

“[A student who falls below a 3.0 for two consecutive semesters will be dismissed from the University.] However, at that time the major professor may petition the academic dean and the Dean of Graduate Studies for consideration of special circumstances which the professor thinks constitute justification for an exception to this regulation”

A handout was provided indicating the suggestion. The reason behind this proposal was that the academic deans thoroughly review the student requests for reinstatement and it is felt there is no need for a re-review by the Dean of Graduate Studies. Dean Harrison indicated that she took no issue with changing the current policy. The proposed policy change would eliminate the phrase “and the Dean of Graduate Studies” from the sentence above.

It was **moved** by Dr. Johnson and **seconded** by Dr. Geringer to change the existing Reinstatement policy. The new policy reads:

[A student who falls below a 3.0 for two consecutive semesters will be dismissed from the University.] However, at that time the major professor may petition the academic dean for consideration of special circumstances which the professor thinks constitute justification for an exception to this regulation”

Passed

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.