

**GRADUATE POLICY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 30, 2012**

The following members were present: David Johnson, English, Chair; Nancy Marcus, Dean, The Graduate School; Jamila Horabin, Biomedical Science; Gerrie Houlihan, Visual Arts; Tomi Gomory, Social Work; Jasminka Ilich-Ernst, Human Sciences; Ike Eberstein, Sociology; Ron Doel, Arts and Sciences; Marc Gertz, Criminology; Young-Suk Kim, Education; Nancy Everhart, Communication and Information; Bong-Soo Lee, Business; Karla Schmitt, Nursing; William Fredrickson, Music

The following members were absent: Bob Pekurny, Communication and Information; Elizabeth Burch, Law; Patricia Born, Business; Brian Gaber, Film/Music; Eric Chicken, Statistics; Stanley Gontarski, Arts and Sciences; Sudhir Aggarwal, Computer Science; Jeffrey Milligan, Education; Rodney Roberts, Engineering; Rick Feiock, Social Sciences and Public Policy

Also present: Colin Creasy, The Graduate School; Judy Devine, The Graduate School; Andy Wang, Computer Science; Jill Pable, Interior Design

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

Consent Items Inventory – Dean Marcus began by explaining the Consent Items Inventory which tracks many of the policy and GPC-related items handled by the Dean of the Graduate School, including lists of faculty granted status by the Graduate School over the past year, Action Plans and 2-Year Follow-Up Reports received and approved by the Graduate School, and Certificates and Majors approved by the Graduate School.

Changes to Interior Design GRE Policy – Dr. Pable provided a brief overview of the Interior Design master's programs and the proposal to make optional the GRE for students who achieve GPAs of 3.25 or higher in their last 60 hours of undergraduate coursework due to the intimidation factor caused by the GRE and the fact that similar programs are no longer requiring the test. The department would instead rely on the GPA, PPI, and portfolio.

Dr. Johnson explained that some degrees (i.e. MFAs) are allowed to accept students without requiring GRE scores due to their creative nature.

Dr. Gomory asked how many students fall into each category (less than 3.25, greater than 3.25.) Dr. Pable explained that most fall into the greater than 3.25 category, adding that a strong GPA seems to be a better indicator for success in the program than a high GRE score.

Dr. Ilich-Ernst asked for an explanation of the PPI. Dr. Pable explained that it was a new tool that provides an in-depth look into a student's potential. Dean Marcus added that the PPI is an alternative to recommendation letters which sometimes do not speak to the qualities that programs are interested in, and instead attempts to quantify student attributes while allowing focused comments.

Dr. Gomory asked whether there would be an intimidation factor with students and the PPI. Dr. Gertz explained that there would be no intimidation because the PPI is done by the student's instructors rather than the student themselves.

Dr. Johnson agreed that the MFA program might qualify for a GRE waiver, but questioned why the MS programs should qualify. Dr. Pable explained that the portfolio provided by students applying for the MS [Advanced Professional] is much more valuable than a GRE score, but noted that students applying for the MS [First Professional] lack this portfolio as they are coming from unrelated backgrounds.

Dr. Lee argued that if a student has a good (better than 3.25) GPA then they should not be intimidated by the GRE, and furthermore there is a problem with basing acceptance on a GPA because the value of that GPA varies wildly between departments, colleges, and universities. Dr. Johnson agreed with these concerns especially for MS applicants.

Dr. Gomory explained that Social Work requires students to take the GRE, but does not have a concrete number that students must hit in order to be accepted. He added that the score simply gives them another piece of data by which to assess a student's application.

Dr. Pable explained that the concern among the department is that they are losing out on highly qualified candidates (based on their portfolio) because they are choosing not to apply due to the GRE requirements. Dr. Johnson agreed that the portfolio seems like a very good tool for judging a student's potential when it's available.

Dr. Horabin asked if the students applying for the MS [First Professional] had portfolios. Dr. Pable explained that they did not since they were coming from non-related backgrounds. Dr. Ilich-Ernst argued that these students should be required to take the GRE.

Dr. Lee asked where the 3.25 GPA cutoff came from. Dr. Pable explained that this was chosen by the department.

Dean Marcus asked about the difference between the two MS degrees. Dr. Pable explained that the MS [Advanced Professional] focused on a single project spanning three semesters while the MS [First Profession] began with coursework for three semesters before transitioning into projects. Dr. Johnson noted that students graduating from the MS [Advanced Professional] program appear to be more marketable, however Dr. Pable explained that this is not the case as the MS [First Professional] program is twice as long and encompasses the curriculum of the MS [Advanced Professional] program while including additional coursework.

Dr. Eberstein argued that he had yet to hear exactly what the problem was within the department. Dr. Pable explained that student numbers aren't as high as they would like, and this could be GRE related.

Dr. Gertz argued that students with good portfolios and good PPI reviews should not be afraid of the GRE exam. Dr. Johnson pointed out that he would expect a drop off in applicants to a Creative Writing MFA program if it were to start requiring the GRE.

It was moved by Dr. Gertz and seconded by Dr. Horabin to accept the proposed policy which reads:

There will be no GRE requirement for Interior Design applicants who achieve a 3.25 or higher GPA on the last 60 hours of undergraduate work for admission to our MS (Advanced Professional) and MFA programs which require a portfolio submission.

Passed

Temporary GTS policy change – Dean Marcus presented updated policy for the temporary GTS requirements.

It was moved by Dr. Gertz and seconded by Dr. Horabin to accept the proposed policy which reads:

Under special circumstances qualified persons who are not regular members of the FSU faculty may be accorded Graduate Teaching Status on a temporary basis with the approval of the academic dean and the Dean of the Graduate School. Temporary graduate teaching status is course-specific and expires after three years. Renewals may be requested by the department. Persons holding appointment as adjunct faculty or Post Doctoral Research Associates (9189) are not eligible for Graduate Teaching Status. Exceptions to this policy may be made by requesting Courtesy General Faculty status as well as Graduate Teaching Status for such persons through the Dean of The Graduate School and the Dean of the Faculties.

Passed

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