

**GRADUATE POLICY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
October 24, 2005**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** George Bates, Chair, Biology; Bettye Ann Case, Mathematics; Wendy Crook, Social Work; Eliza Dresang, Information; Joseph Dodge, Law; Peter Easton, Education; Ike Eberstein, Social Sciences; Kathleen Erndl, Religion; Flip Froelich, Oceanography; John Geringer, Music; Jeanne Heitmeyer, Human Sciences; David Johnson, Humanities/English; Gary Kleck, Criminology; Susan Lynn, Education; Nancy Marcus, Dean of Graduate Studies; Colleen Muscha, Theatre; Valliere Richard Auzenne, Film; Randy Rill, Medicine; Anne Rowe, Dean of the Faculties; Lee Stepina, Business; Linda Sullivan, Nursing

**ALSO PRESENT:** Lisa Beverly, Graduate Studies; Judith Devine, Graduate Studies; Ross Ellington, Academic Affairs; Althea Jenkins, University Libraries; Charles Thomas, University Libraries.

**Joint Degree Proposals** – A proposal on joint degree program requirements was reviewed by the GPC in Spring 2005. The proposal was originally presented by then Dean of Graduate Studies, Dianne Harrison. The GPC recommended that each component program in a joint degree program require student to complete a minimum of 18 hours in each discipline. The Faculty Senate Steering Committee rejected this proposal. Dean Marcus has now developed a new joint degree proposal. The wording of the original proposal may have allowed a loophole where students would only need to complete total of 36 hours for a joint degree. The revised proposal was distributed to the committee.

The difference between joint degrees versus dual degrees was explained. Joint degree programs have their own major code and provide students the opportunity to earn graduate degrees from two academic programs concurrently. In addition to academic program requirements, joint degree programs provide for some cross-credit of a specified number of hours from each of the two degree programs. This enables students who are admitted and enrolled in two programs concurrently to, in effect, “save” on the number of total hours required versus those required when completing the two degrees separately. In dual degrees, students apply for one degree and later apply for admission into the second degree program. Students must complete all degree requirements for both programs.

A joint degree chart from the Spring 2005 meeting, indicating the breakdown of required hours in each program, was provided to the committee. The new recommendation for total joint degree hours is 60 credit-hours, which is in line with current practice. The term joint degree implies that there are cross-credit hours. The proposal recommends that at least 12 cross-credit hours (6 from each component degree) be required in each joint degree program. Unless the joint degree program clearly identifies at least 6 cross-credit hours, then the degree would not qualify as a joint degree.

Dr. Bates informed the committee that he reviewed some of the joint degree programs information on-line and noted that in some programs, students can get two separate degrees without the cross-credit for nearly the same total hours as a joint degree. He suggested that the 36 hour recommendation should be written into new joint degree proposals. The question was raised if it is permissible for students to enter a joint

program after admission to the university. Dr. Crook advised the committee that it is possible but difficult. Course sequencing is thrown off for students who start a joint degree later.

Dr. Crook asked if any problems for the existing joint degree programs would arise from the proposed changes to the joint degree requirements. It was noted that only the MSW/MS in Criminology program would need to increase cross-credit hours in the Criminology component. Dr. Crook also suggested that a target date be established for the implementation of the new policy and included in the proposal.

A **motion** was made by Dr. Marcus and **seconded** by Dr. Richard to approve the following recommendation:

It is recommended that each joint degree program require a minimum combined total of 60 credit hours and a minimum of 24 credit hours in each of the two disciplines. It is required further that at least six hours from each degree program be appropriate for the other degree program, hence be considered cross-credit hours.

A discussion of the proposal commenced. **No action was taken on the motion.**

A **motion for a friendly amendment** was made by Dr. Crook and **seconded** by Dr. Richard to approve the following recommendation:

It is recommended that each joint degree program require a minimum combined total of 60 credit hours and a minimum of 24 credit hours in each of the two disciplines. It is required further that at least six of the actual hours taken in each of the component degree programs be designated as required and appropriate to the other degree program. These cross-credit hours are the essence of the joint nature of the combined program. It is further recommended that this policy should be implemented for new students beginning Fall 2006.

**The motion passed.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.