

**GRADUATE POLICY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
October 15, 2001**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

George Bates, Chair, Biology
Alan Mabe, Graduate Studies
Ken Brewer, Education
Carrie Sandahl, Theatre
Steve Edwards, Dean of Faculties
Linda Vinton, Social Work
Ken Brewer, Education
Patty Phillips, Dance
Vall Richard Auzenne, Film
Kathleen Erndl, Religion
John Ruhl, Law
Elizabeth Platt, Education

ALSO PRESENT:

Karen Laughlin
Donna Wieckowicz
Judy Devine
Ann Durham
Libby Patenaude
Helen Livingston
Myra Hurt
Tricia Young

The meeting was called to order at 3:40 P.M. by Ms. Karen Laughlin, President of the Faculty Senate. Ms. Laughlin opened the meeting and called for the election of the GPC chairperson for the 2001-02 year. Ms. Vall Richard Auzenne nominated Mr. George Bates. The nomination was **seconded** by Mr. Ken Brewer and Mr. Bates was reelected as Chair of the GPC.

Mr. Bates assumed the chair and presented for approval the 4/16/01 and 4/23/01 minutes. There being no objection the minutes were approved as distributed.

Mr. Bates brought the GPC up-to-date on the 2001-02 review schedule. He informed the committee that three programs will be reviewed Fall 2001 on November 5, November 19 and November 26. The remaining seven programs will be reviewed during the Spring Semester 2002.

Mr. Mabe gave a brief overview of the next agenda item concerning an alternative admission plan for the Dance Department. He informed the GPC that the Board of Education requires that a GRE score be submitted for each student admitted to the University, but alternative admission programs are also acceptable. He reminded the GPC that they previously approved alternate admission policies for Music and Theatre for the performance areas of their programs.

Mr. Bates then called upon Ms. Libby Patenaude to present the alternative admission plan for the MFA and MA degrees in Dance, which was distributed to the GPC in advance. Ms. Patenaude reported that the Dance Department conducted a survey of peer institutions with top national rankings and found that the majority of Master's degree programs in Dance do not require the GRE. In her summation she informed the GPC that the program will continue to require the GRE for those students who do not have

a 3.0 GPA. The program will also require a two day audition and interview process. They will also require a writing component which consists of two writing samples, a previous submission, and a written statement of goals completed on-site. Ms. Patenaude went on to say that the program attracts returning professional dancers, but due to the GRE requirement several have gone to peer institutions that do not require the GRE.

Several committee members voiced concern over the MA degree not requiring the GRE. Ms. Patenaude informed the GPC that students go from the MA degree into the MFA degree. She added that Dance considers the MFA their terminal degree.

It was **moved** by Mr. Brewer and **seconded** by Ms. Auzenne that the GRE requirement be waived for the MFA degree in Dance for those applicants who have achieved a 3.0 or better GPA in all baccalaureate upper division work and that the alternative criteria for the MFA degree be approved.

Passed.

It was further suggested that Dance reevaluate their alternative admission request for the MA degree and present a new plan to the GPC at a later date.

Mr. Bates then called upon Ms. Helen Livingston to present the retention and dismissal standards for the College of Medicine, which were distributed to the GPC in advance. Ms. Livingston reported that the evaluation procedures and standards of achievement used by the College of Medicine are the same standards used by the University of Florida. She informed the GPC that at the end of each grading period, each student must complete a self-evaluation report. Grades are submitted along with any relevant information and a committee then reviews each student individually. Any student who does not receive a 2.8 GPA will be placed on probation. Ms. Livingston further stated that in researching other medical schools they discovered that their requirement of 2.8 is higher than other peer schools. The College of Medicine is requesting two exceptions: 2.8 GPA per term, and 2.8 GPA for graduation, vs. the FSU requirement of a 3.0 GPA.

The committee questioned the number of times allowed to be placed on probation, and what the student must maintain to be allowed off probation. Ms. Livingston responded by saying that the student is allowed one probation and the student must maintain a B grade in all courses taken the next semester to get off probation. The final decision is then made by a committee which will review their grades and their overall record.

The GPC informed the college that FSU permits a graduate student to use the forgiveness option only two times. Ms. Hurt, College of Medicine, advised that they will clarify that issue. She further stated that each student is required by the end of their second year to have successfully completed the preclinical curriculum and receive a passing score on the USMLE Step 1 exam.

It was **moved** by Ms. Phillips and **seconded** by Mr. Brewer that a probation standard of 2.8 GPA, rather than a 3.0 GPA, be approved for the College of Medicine.

It was further **moved** by Ms. Erndl and **seconded** by Ms. Auzenne that a graduation standard of 2.8 GPA, rather than a 3.0 GPA, be approved for graduation for the College of Medicine.

Passed

Mr. Mabe requested input from the GPC on a potential problem concerning the makeup of a doctoral supervisory committee relevant to nepotism. He briefed the committee on a present issue where the representative at large of a supervisory committee is married to the chair of that supervisory committee. The GPC felt this could result in a conflict of interest and that the GPC should initiate some sort of policy governing this issue. It was agreed to set up a subcommittee consisting of Ken Brewer, Kathleen Erndl, George Bates and Alan Mabe, to review the problem and submit a plan for further review to the GPC at a later date.

Mr. Mabe then reported on a follow-up request of the 1999-2000 Supervisory Committee Report that was presented to the GPC on 3/5/01. The GPC at that time discussed the College of Education's on-going problem with their faculty directing more than 10 graduate students and requested that Mr. Mabe ask the College of Education to submit a written plan on how they plan to rectify the problem. Mr. Mabe then briefed the GPC on the plan that the College of Education submitted and felt that the problems were being rectified and that the report for 1999-2000 be accepted. The GPC concurred with the recommendation.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 P.M.