

**GRADUATE POLICY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2007**

**The following members were present:** George Bates, GPC Chair, Biology; Nancy Marcus, Dean, Graduate Studies; Anne Rowe, Dean of the Faculties; Flip Froelich, Oceanography; Lois Shepard, Law; Rebecca Miles, Social Sciences; David Johnson, Humanities; Frank Tomasulo, Film; Lee Stepina, Business; David MacPherson, Social Sciences; Michael Reisig, Criminology; Darcy Siebert, Social Work; Susan Lynn, Education; Seth Beckman, Music; Eliza Dresang, Information; Colleen Muscha, Theatre; Randy Rill, Medicine; Betty Anne Case, Math; Molly Wasko, Business

**The following members were absent. Alternates present are listed in parentheses:** Kathleen Erndl, Religion; Linda Sullivan, Nursing; Peter Easton, Education; Ken Apel, Communication; Amy Chan Hilton, Engineering; Ron Mullis, Human Sciences; Rodney Roberts, Engineering; Matthew Chandler, Graduate Student Representative

**Also present:** Judith Devine, Associate Dean, Graduate Studies; Sarah Earley, GPC Staff Assistant, Graduate Studies; Lisa Plowfield, Dean, Nursing; Dianne Speak, Associate Dean, Nursing; Cindy Green, Director, International Center; Patrick Kennell, Director, Center for Intensive English Studies; Maria Mendoza, Coordinator, Center for Intensive English Studies; Melanie Booker, Assistant Director, Admissions

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m. by Professor George Bates. **A quorum was present.**

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The subject of Conditional Admission for international students with a low TOEFL speaking score was discussed. Dr. Kennell proposed that the student meet all conditions for admission except for the language score. Rather than denying admittance for a low language score, international applicants could be admitted based on the condition that they increase their TOEFL speaking score.

Dean Marcus said that the proposition is to allow departments to accept students that they really want when the students do not meet the TOEFL requirements. The department could send a letter to Admissions in order to allow students to enter the U.S. on the condition that they would increase their TOEFL score.

Dr. Kennell said that international students are not issued a visa if they only apply for language study and have no connections to Florida State. If they can show that they are conditionally admitted then they may be issued the I-20 visa.

Dr. Colleen Muscha asked how long the students have to raise the TOEFL score. Dr. Kennell said that it takes between a year and 18 months.

Dean Marcus pointed out that they are primarily discussing self-supported or governmentally-sponsored students.

Dr. Bates said that if a student does not meet the TOEFL requirements then they can be admitted as provisional students, or the faculty can ask for an exception.

Dr. Kennell explained that thousands of Saudi students apply for study in the United States every year and those students' tuition is paid by the government. The Saudi government looks for schools where they can have intensive English study and a full education. With the Conditional Acceptance, the Saudi government may begin to select Florida State University.

Dr. Bates asked if anyone saw a liability with the Conditional Admission. Dean Marcus said that she had no reservations.

Dr. Kathleen Erndl suggested that the term be changed to "conditional acceptance." She made the motion that FSU adopt a conditional acceptance policy as previously stated by Dr. Kennell.

Dr. Bates moved to approve that anywhere the policy said, "admission," it should be changed to "acceptance." Dr. Erndl accepted the friendly amendment.

Dr. Susan Lynn seconded the following motion:

Departments may accept students (Conditional Acceptance) that when the students do not meet the TOEFL requirements. The department will send a letter to Admissions in order to allow students to enter the U.S. on the condition that they will increase their TOEFL scores.

Frank Tomasulo said that the I-B TOEFL would require a lot of discussion and he recommended tabling the issue until the next meeting. The original minutes do not say if the motion passed or were tabled.

**The meeting was adjourned at 5:10pm.**

**The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 1, 2007 at 3:35pm in 201 Westcott.**