

**GRADUATE POLICY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 23, 2002**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

George Bates, Chair, Biology
Valliere Richard Auzenne, Film
Steve Edwards, Dean of Faculties
David Johnson, English
Elizabeth Platt, Education
Tom Hart, Info. Studies
Dianne Speake, Nursing
Kathleen Erndl, Religion
Bruce Bullington, Criminology
Dianne Harrison, Graduate Studies
Wendy Crook, Social Work
Jim Orcutt, Sociology
Jack Fiorito, Business
Fran Berry, Public Admin.
Bill Landing, Oceanography
Emily Haymes, Info. Studies
Terra Zvara, Grad. Student Rep.
Andrew Payer, Medicine

ALSO PRESENT:

Donna Wieckowicz
Melanie Booker
Judy Devine
Eddie Yon
Robert McDonald
Helen Livingston
Myra Hurt
Donna Christie

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 P.M. by Ms. Valliere Richard Auzenne, President of the Faculty Senate. Ms. Auzenne opened the meeting and called for the election of the GPC chairperson for the 2002-03 year. Mr. Jim Orcutt nominated Mr. George Bates. The nomination was **seconded** by Mr. David Johnson and **passed**.

Mr. Bates assumed the chair and presented for approval the 4/1/02, 4/15/02, and 4/22/02 minutes. There being no objection the minutes were approved as distributed.

Mr. Bates then called upon Ms. Myra Hurt, College of Medicine, to present a proposal to the GPC to change the academic probation standard from a 2.8 GPA to a 2.5 GPA for the College of Medicine, which was distributed to the GPC in advance. Ms. Hurt informed the committee that on October 15, 2002, the College of Medicine requested and received approval from the GPC that the probation standard of a 2.8 GPA, rather than a 3.0 GPA, be adopted for the college. During the last year the college has made significant course changes with the implementation of their integrated curricular model, which affects the GPA calculation each year, as well as the credit hour allocation used to designate progress through medical school. The student's academic performance was affected by the curriculum adjustments, particularly by collapsing several small credit-hour courses into one large credit-hour course, and by implementing a pass/fail grade for the doctoring courses. These

changes resulted in several medical students being placed on probation, when only two students were actually having academic problems. Ms. Hurt concluded by requesting the GPC's approval to lower the GPA for probation to a 2.5 for the College of Medicine.

It was **moved** by Mr. Edwards and **seconded** by Ms. Auzenne that a probation standard of 2.5 GPA, rather than a 2.8 GPA, be approved for the College of Medicine.

The floor was opened to questions. Questions concerning the number of times a student is placed on probation, and the academic standards used in other medical schools were raised. Ms. Hurt responded by saying that students are allowed one probation and must maintain a B grade in all courses taken the next semester to get off probation. Ms. Hurt advised that in assessing the need to change the academic standard the college researched the academic standards of other medical schools and found their standards for probation are usually placed between 2.0 and 2.5, one example is University of Florida's probation GPA is 2.0. She feels that the college's request is well within other medical schools in setting a required 2.5 GPA to remain in good standing with the program.

Passed

Mr. Bates presented the request from the College of Law to offer a new degree in L.L.M. in American Law for Foreign Lawyers, which was distributed to the GPC in advance. Mr. Bates informed the committee the proposed degree was approved prior to being presented to the GPC to meet a Board of Trustees deadline. He advised that he, along with Ms. Dianne Harrison, reviewed the proposal for the GPC and concurred approval. He then called upon Ms. Donna Christie to brief the GPC on the intent of the new degree program. Ms. Christie advised that the degree will provide foreign lawyers individualized courses to gain a better understanding of the American legal system. The program would most likely have an enrollment size of 4 to 7 students a year, with no extra cost to the college. She further advised there would be no changes to the present curriculum or faculty to accommodate this degree.

It was **moved** by Ms. Crook to endorse the approval of the L.L.M. in American Law for Foreign Lawyers. The motion was **seconded** by Mr. Johnson and **passed**.

Other Business:

Mr. Bates reported the following:

That the two-year follow-up reports on Economics, Political Science, Public Administration and Policy, Religion, Sociology, and Urban and Regional Planning are in compliance with GPC recommendations.

That the College of Human Sciences submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies their revised criteria for Doctoral Directive Status. The revised criteria was approved.

That later this Fall the Department of Dance will be submitting for review by the GPC a proposed new Ph.D. degree in Dance History: American Dance Studies.

Mr. Bates then called upon Mr. David Johnson to update the GPC on the new electronic submission of treatises, theses and dissertations (ETD Project at FSU). Mr. Johnson provided a PowerPoint presentation that outlined the goals of the ETD Project at FSU and explained that the ETD Project is a joint effort between the Office of Graduate Studies, University Libraries, User Services, and the Office of Distributed and Distance Learning. He explained that students complete their thesis, treatise, or dissertation as usual and then after their defense convert the manuscripts (word processing files or PostScript files) to Adobe PDF format. He advised that the Office of Graduate Studies and User Services will provide the training for students and faculty. Presently Physics, English, and the School of Music have joined the pilot program for the first group of students to electronically submit their, treatises, theses and dissertations for Fall 2002, with several other disciplines scheduled to participate with the Spring 2003 pilot program. FSU plans to require campus-wide ETD participation by the Fall 2003 semester. He further advised that of the 126 other universities and 18 institutions that require electronic submission of manuscripts, FSU is the only one that will provide the student and major professor with a DVD.

The GPC agreed that this was an excellent program. It was further **moved** by Ms. Crook to endorse the new electronic submission process of treatises, theses and dissertations (ETD Project at FSU). The motion was **seconded** by Ms. Berry and **passed**.

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