

**GRADUATE POLICY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
October 1, 2012**

The following members were present: David Johnson, English, Chair; Nancy Marcus, Dean, The Graduate School; Gerrie Houlihan, Visual Arts; Stanley Gontarski, Arts and Sciences; Bong-Soo Lee, Business; Sudhir Aggarwal, Computer Science; Sherry Southerland, Education; Tomi Gomory, Social Work; Gary Burnett, Communication & Information; Kaifeng Yang, Social Science; Linda DeBrunner, Engineering; Elwood Carlson, Sociology; Peter Hoeflich, Physics; Jamila Horabin, Biomedical Science; Ron Doel, Arts and Sciences; Karla Schmitt, Nursing; Nancy Everhart, Communication and Information; Brian Gaber, Film/Music; Patricia Born, Business

The following members were absent: Elizabeth Burch, Law; Jasminka Ilich-Ernst, Human Sciences; Jeffrey Milligan, Education; Marc Gertz, Criminology; William Fredrickson, Music

Also present: Colin Creasy, The Graduate School; Judy Devine, The Graduate School; Sandra Lewis, Faculty Development; Jennifer Buchanan, Faculty Development; George Bates, Biology; Maria Mendoza, ITA; Diana Rice, Education

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

Alternate Certification for International TAs – Dr. Bates explained the new proposal of a course that would satisfy ITA certification at FSU. The new certification course would require potential ITAs to earn 90% or better in a series of simulated classroom teaching presentations. He added that this course would help improve student teaching skills, not just English proficiency, and bring the university more in line with similar institutions that offer additional methods for certification.

Dr. Johnson wondered if this course would suffer from a “flood of students” and questioned if there was enough staff to handle it. Dr. Mendoza explained that classes were being kept small so that students would be forced to practice their speaking skills and added that there were only three sessions of the course currently being offered.

Dr. Gomory asked about the percentage of students who fail to achieve certification through the current exam model. Dr. Mendoza estimated that about 5 students out of 40 didn’t receive a score high enough to be certified. Dr. Gomory argued that a 10% failure rate was not that big of an issue. Dr. Bates explained that it’s important to the departments that these students are teaching at that if even 1 out of 7 can’t, this can become a problem.

It was moved by Dr. Schmitt and seconded by Dr. Horabin to accept the proposal.

Passed

Plagiarism Policy Discussion – Dr. Johnson provided a brief history of the proposal for new GPC members and suggested a new version of the policy (newest revisions bolded) that could go before the Faculty Senate:

*Theses, treatises, and dissertations are expected to reflect original work. Faculty may choose to use Turnitin, or any other FSU-approved tool, with early drafts of these manuscripts as an instructional tool to advise students on matters relating to plagiarism. The review and certification of originality should be completed prior to the defense. Assuming the defense proceeds normally, the appropriate section of the Manuscript Signature Approval Form must be completed. **The signatures of all committee members appearing on that form constitute testimony from the committee that they are satisfied that the dissertation meets FSU's standards of originality and that appropriate steps have been taken to assure that this is the case.***

Dr. Hoeflich wondered how the University Representative would be able to verify originality. Dr. Johnson argued that, in all cases with dealing with verifying originality, it's "to the best of their knowledge" and that the University Representative must rely on the other members knowledge of the research. Dr. Carlson noted that the committee chair is typically the one responsible for verifying originality of the research. Dr. Gomory agreed, but added that the other members should participate if they have the time.

Dr. Everhart suggested that the university do more to promote and explain the Turnitin tool faculty/departments. Dean Marcus explained that the resistance has been related to the imposition it places on faculty and asked whether or not the Graduate School might take on the task of running manuscripts through the program. Dr. Johnson argued that this solution would meet the same resistance from departments who don't find Turnitin useful.

Dr. DeBrunner explained that her department was more concerned with falsified data than plagiarism.

Dr. Gomory argued that the term "plagiarism" must be present in the revision.

Dr. Buchanan suggested substituting "integrity" for "originality."

Dr. Johnson suggested that he revise the policy further to account for University Representative concerns and will return with new language at a later meeting.

Faculty Governance – Dr. Johnson explained that this new document would be useful in creating policy and would allow departments and program to have more oversight.

With no new business to be presented, Dr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 4:15 P.M.