

**GRADUATE POLICY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 23, 2009**

The following members were present: David Johnson, English, Chair; Nancy Marcus, Dean, Graduate School; Charles Barrilleaux, Political Science; Gary Burnett, Information; Bill Fredrickson, Music; Flip Froelich, Oceanography; Marc Gertz, Criminology; Stanley Gontarski, English; Jim Hinterlong, Social Work; Susan Lynn, Education; Colleen Muscha, Theatre; Rodney Roberts, Engineering; Dianne Speake, Nursing; Molly Wasko, Business

The following members were absent – alternatives present are listed in parentheses: Sudhir Aggarwal, Computer Science; Valliere Richard Auzenne, Film; Ulla Bunz, Communication; Kathleen Erndl, Religion; Ithel Jones, Teacher Education; Andy Mauk, Education; David MacPherson, Economics; Randy Rill, Medicine; Dan Markel, Law; Victor Mesev, Social Sciences; Ron Mullis, Human Sciences; Lee Stepina, Business; Jason Fishbein, Graduate Student Representative, Congress of Graduate Students

Also present: Jennifer Buchanan, Dean of Faculties; Judy Devine, Associate Dean, Graduate School; Monica Esquibel, Graduate School; Patrick Kennell, Center for Intensive English Studies; Melanie Booker, Admissions

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 P.M. **A quorum was present.**

Approval of GPC Minutes –

It was moved by Dr. Gertz and seconded by Dr. Froelich to accept recommendations as a block.

Passed

Graduate Admissions Standards – Dr. Johnson reminded the committee that during fall semester, it was brought to the attention of the GPC that the Joint Statement on Admissions needed to be reviewed. Dr. Hinterlong chaired the subcommittee that reviewed the graduate admissions standards. Dr. Gontarski, Dean Marcus, Melanie Booker, and Patrick Kennell assisted in the process.

Dr. Hinterlong stated that the cover memo given to the GPC lays out the two more significant revisions to current policy. The first is that instead of establishing a university-wide standard on a national graduate admissions test, like the GRE, the onus of establishing a minimum standard is going to fall to the departments. At the same time, they have opened the language up to allow additional exams to be used. The second major revision is in regards to English proficiency tests. Other universities are accepting many more exams or proficiency assessments apart from the TOEFL, which is FSU's single standard. The subcommittee proposes expanding that list to several other exams as well as completion of courses at the Center for Intensive English Studies.

A table was presented to the GPC which included score comparisons of four English language proficiency tests. Dr. Hinterlong explained that the proposed concordance table and the proposed standardized are either consistent or leading in current English language proficiency examination around the country.

Dr. Marcus stated that although a minimum GRE score is no longer defined at the University level, the University is retaining a minimum standard for the TOEFL. In accepting new proficiency tests, the recommended required scores will be specified in the Graduate Bulletin.

The document titled Florida State University Admission to Graduate and Post-baccalaureate Professional Programs is a revised version of guidelines promulgated by the Council of Graduate Deans. Point number four outlines that all applicants will be required to have nationally standardized graduate admissions test scores on record with the University. Point number six shows the standard language regarding English language proficiency testing.

Apart from these changes, Dr. Hinterlong explained that there are not many additional changes that depart from current practice. The document formalizes a lot of standards that are in place currently, that weren't necessarily consolidated into a single document.

Questions were raised about whether this document takes into consideration that there are certain areas which have been approved by the GPC not to require standardized test scores. Dr. Hinterlong explained that this is addressed by point number five which allows for the University to grant exceptions on a case by case basis.

Dr. Marcus explained that point number two emphasizes a holistic approach to evaluating credentials and the departure from having a university minimum standard for the GRE or other standardized test. Dr. Marcus referred to point number nine which states that applicants that are denied admission and who meet the minimum University and departmental standards may request reconsideration by written request to the University within thirty days of the date of denial. If the departments do not have clear criteria on who they are accepting, then this would give all those denied admission the right to appeal. Programs should ideally post their admission criteria on their website.

Questions were raised about whether students would appeal a denial of admission to the University or The Graduate School. Dr. Marcus stated that the students would have to appeal to The Graduate School. Melanie Booker stated that she would change the wording of the document to reflect this.

Dr. Marcus stated that The Graduate School will monitor what is happening to the scores on the standardized tests. If it appears that scores are moving in a downward direction that would need to be addressed.

Dr. Johnson stated that one result of this change is that units are now going to have to formulate their own criteria for acceptance. This would include whether they will require a standardized test score and, if so, what the minimum score would be. Any program that chooses to not require submission of a test score must have the approval of the GPC.

Dr. Marcus explained that applicants to Teacher Education will still have a minimum required GRE Score of a 1000 because it set in a statute that is separate from what the Board of Governors had devolved.

Passed

Dr. Johnson stated that the Nursing program review is rescheduled for April 27th.

With no further new business to be presented, Dr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 4:00 P.M.