**GRADUATE POLICY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**September 30, 2019**

**The following members were present:** David Johnson, Chair, English; Lynn Panton, Human Sciences; Sudhir Aggarwal, Computer Science; Cater Hay, Criminology; Evan Jones, Music; Steve Johnson, Law; Tomi Gomory, Social Work; Jamila Horabin, Biomedical Sciences; Vasubandhu Misra, Chemistry; Jessica Ridgway-Clinton, Jim Moran School of Entrepreneurship; Gary Burnett, School of Information; Jim Lile, Theatre; Woody Kim, School of Hospitality; Vanessa Dennen, Educational Psychology and Learning Systems.

**The following members were absent:** Jeannine Turner, Educational Psychology and Learning Systems; Stacey VanDyke, Nurse Anesthesia, Applied Studies; Mei Zhang, Industrial Engineering; David Orozco, Business, RMI-REE; Patricia Born, Business, RMI- REE; Audrey Heffron Casserleigh, Emergency Management and Homeland Security; Ron Doel, History; Stanley Gontarski, English; Mai King, Nursing.

**Also present:** James Beck, The Graduate School; Mark Riley, The Graduate School;Judy Devine, The Graduate School;Samantha Kunin, Law, Graduate Student Representative; Rachel Jones, Sport Management, Graduate Student Representative; Lee Metcalf, International Affairs.

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

**Previous Meeting Minutes** –With no revisions or additions in mind, the meeting minutes from September 9, 2019 were approved.

**GRE Waiver Request- International Affairs (IA)-** Dr. Metcalf provided a brief overview of the GRE Waiver. She explained that the International Affairs (IA) program would like to request permission to waive the GRE admissions requirement for the master’s degree (MA and MS) for the following students/personnel:

1. Full-time employed students:
* Dr. Metcalf noted that the majority of the International Affairs master’s students are continuing their education after being in the work force. The program has found these students request the waiver of the GRE for their expansive work experience in the International arena.
1. International Students:
* Dr. Metcalf explained that the inclusion of the GRE as a requirement for admissions results in a less diverse application pool. Some prospective students in other countries have difficulties finding a testing center that holds the GRE. They may also be from a poor country, such as Malawi, where every dollar counts. The GRE has the tendency to be tailored to students who are English speaking and went to school in the United States.
1. Military Personnel:
* Dr. Metcalf stated that the program has some great prospects with years of International experience from the Military, and the unit believes the GRE is adding another obstacle to personnel who have proven they will be successful in graduate school in other ways.

Dr. Metcalf explained that these changes will help the faculty of the International Affairs program increase the applicant pool applying for the degree, which gives the program a more diverse prospect pool to offer funding, and will help eliminate unnecessary hardships for prospective students who can prove their abilities in other ways.

**GRE Waiver Criteria:**

The GRE requirement may be waived for applicants, if the applicant meets at least ONE of the following criteria:

* Five years of professional experience as a practitioner in an international space or with international context, OR
* Successful completion of 6 graduate credit hours from the approved International Affairs class list, with a graduate GPA of 3.50 or higher, OR
* Three years of experience in the Military working in an international space or with international context.

Applicants must provide evidence to satisfy the criteria being applied. Approval of a GRE waiver does not guarantee admission. Prospective students must still apply and meet all other admissions requirements.

Dr. Metcalf stated that five years of professional experience as a practitioner in an international space or with international content can provide evidence of a student who can handle the rigor of graduate courses and use of practical experience in the theoretical and educational aspect of learning about international affairs. When waiving the GRE for applicants who have experience in the workforce, the program can create a more diverse pool. They will be able to bring real life experience into the classroom, which will elevate the classroom teaching experience. Furthermore, Dr. Metcalf noted that some students may have disabilities or anxiety with test taking and cannot accurately display their ability to be successful in a graduate course.

Finally, three years of experience in the Military working in an international space or with international context can provide evidence, much like a practitioner in the workforce, that a student capable of handling the rigor of a graduate program. Many military personnel and/or Veterans have traveled to different countries, speak multiple languages and have worked in Intel, or some type of international context. The program believes that these applicants should not have to jump over another hurdle when applying to a graduate program. Additionally, Dr. Metcalf stated that their real-life experiences will be gladly received in the classroom and help elevate the program – while also supporting the Veteran population.

Dr. Johnson opened the floor to discussion.

Dr. Johnson noted that the waiver language states that “five years of professional experience as a practitioner in an international space or with international content can provide evidence of a student who can handle the rigor of graduate courses.” He asked for Dr. Metcalf to provide an explanation of the distinction between “international space” versus “international content.” Dr. Metcalf explained that international space relates to a person who is working abroad in an international context, while international content pertains to a person stationed and working with a U.S. company on international issues who is not abroad.

Dr. Horabin asked for more information about the International Affairs admissions master’s application process. Dr. Metcalf explained that the program requires the prospective students to not only submit a transcript and letters of recommendation during the application process, but also a resume which the unit will use to evaluate their service and years of professional experience as a practitioner in international relations.

Dean Riley asked for more information about the six (6) graduate credit hours the International Affairs students would need to take. Dr. Metcalf explained that successful completion of six (6) graduate credit hours from the approved International Affairs class list with a graduate GPA of 3.50 or higher will provide a greater indication of the abilities and success of potential students, versus the results of a standardized test. She stated that the program believes that if a student can receive a GPA of 3.50 or higher in 6 credits of graduate coursework, then they have already demonstrated a high level of thinking and ability and will likely be able to continue that success in the full graduate program. She explained that the program is trying to encourage FSU International Affairs undergraduate students, who they feel are exceptional candidates for the master’s program, to take some graduate coursework and ease them into the graduate program.

After some further discussion, Dr. Johnson called for a motion to accept the proposal.

Dr. Horabin motioned to accept the proposal as is. Dr. Panton seconded the motion.

**With no further discussion, a vote was placed. All were in favor of the proposal.**

**PASSED**

**With no further business to be presented, Dr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 3:55 P.M.**