MINUTES

Graduate Council

January 20, 2011

Present: Ex officio: M. Sohn (Chairperson)


Guests: M. Baloga, M. Bonhomme, R. Griffith, E. Kalajian, H. Rassoul, C. Young

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m.

1) MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 2010 GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING

Unanimously Approved

The minutes of the November 18, 2010 meeting were approved on a motion by Dr. Maul and a second by Dr. Silaghi.

2) DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Dr. Layne advised Graduate Council members that due to the university’s January 1 reorganization, Dr. Gordon Nelson will assume leadership for the graduate school in his role as Vice President for Academic Affairs.

She also reminded council members that it is almost time to elect a Graduate Council Chair. Dr. Sohn requested volunteers to serve on the nominating committee. A nominating committee consisting of Dr. Maul, Dr. Silaghi, and Dr. Cain will meet and discuss possible candidates.

3) COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS REPORT: Definition of a Credit Hour

Dr. Sohn reminded members that at the November 2010 Graduate Council Meeting Dr. Baloga requested to open discussion among council members about the university’s definition of a credit hour. Graduate Council referred this item to the Committee on Standards for further discussion and recommendation. Dr. Sohn called on Dr. Gallo to deliver the report of the January 13, 2011 Committee on Standards Meeting. Dr. Gallo reported the committee’s recommendation to modify the current definition of a credit hour (2010-2011 University Catalog, page 22), replacing the phrase “in lecture” with “of instruction”. He reported that because the committee agreed that any revised definition should be measurable, it makes more sense to look at the definition from the instructor perspective rather than from the perspective of “student effort.” The bottom line is that if we adhere to the term “of
instruction” (rather than “in lecture”) then we can operationally define “instruction” with respect to delivery method and type of course.

Dr. Maul suggested that the Committee on Standards should have conversation with the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. Dr. Rassoul felt that it is important for college deans to discuss this matter because the university may need to modify instructor evaluations. Dr. Kalajian recommended the formation of an ad hoc committee with graduate and undergraduate representation. Dr. Baloga indicated that this is a good time to begin conversations and to focus in on ideas brought forward here today. She will continue gathering input from the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, College Deans, Chief Operating Officer and appropriate others and will coordinate efforts in this regard.

4)  **GRADUATE FACULTY APPOINTMENT: Dr. Bill LEACH**

*Unanimously Approved at MS Level*

Dr. Strother noted that Dr. Leach has since been promoted to assistant professor; however, this was not noted on his current vitae. He was listed as an instructor.

On a motion by Dr. Maul and a second by Dr. Richardson, the vote resulted in unanimous approval.

5)  **GRADUATE FACULTY APPOINTMENT: Mr. Donald PLATT**

*Approved at MS Level*

Dr. Richardson noted that Mr. Platt is an adjunct faculty member who has taught courses and is working on his dissertation.

On a motion by Dr. Maul and a second by Dr. Strother the vote resulted in eight approvals, four opposed, and two abstentions.

6)  **GRADUATE FACULTY APPOINTMENT: Dr. Yekaterina LIN**

*Unanimously Approved at MS Level*

On a motion by Dr. Maul and a second by Dr. Tomadakis, the vote resulted in unanimous approval.

7)  **NEW PROGRAM CONCENTRATION – Ph.D. I/O Psychology**

*Unanimously Approved*

The proposed concentration of International Industrial/Organizational Psychology in the Ph.D. program in Industrial/Organizational Psychology includes one new course:
PSY 6493 *Current Topics in International I/O Psychology*. Dr. Griffith clarified that the concentration would require three required courses and two electives as reflected in the table on page 21 of the Graduate Council Packet.

On a motion by Dr. Martinez-Diaz and a second by Dr. Cain, the vote resulted in unanimous approval.

8) **REMARKS FROM THE FLOOR**

Dr. Gallo had a question for Ms. Young regarding the release of information for students who are minors. Ms. Young overviewed the Florida Tech policy and noted that FERPA prohibits the release of student information to third parties without the student’s consent. She noted that specific information may be released to other FI Tech offices (e.g. Academic Support Center) on a “need to know” basis. Dr. Nesnas had a question about accessing a roster of his advisees on PAWS. Ms. Young advised that she can assist faculty members with accessing the necessary information.

The next meeting will be held on the 3rd Thursday, February 17, 2011.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

Rosemary G. Layne, Ed.D.
Director of Graduate Programs