MINUTES

Graduate Council

October 20, 2011

Present: Ex officio: M. Sohn (Chairperson), G. Nelson, H. Rassoul


Guests: R. Harper, E. Kalajian, D. Wilder, C. Young

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m.

1) MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 2011 GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING

Unanimously Approved

The minutes of the September 15, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Dr. Maul and a second by Dr. Sharma.

2) COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS REPORT

Unanimously Approved

Dr. Richardson was asked to report the results of the Committee on Standards meeting. The committee on standards members concluded that the issue of who should be listed in the University Catalog is a departmental decision rather than an issue that can be considered by the committee on standards because the issue does not involve graduate policy or academic standards. It was also surmised that Faculty Senate is a better governing body to determine and review this matter, taking into account procedures that had been established by Dr. Ray Bonhomme in his former position (Senior Vice Provost).

Dr. Sohn informed fellow council members that Dr. Layne plans on meeting with Dr. Polson, president of the faculty senate, to discuss the minutes of the committee on standards meeting.

The minutes of the October 13, 2011 meeting of committee on standards were unanimously approved on a motion by Dr. Richardson and a second by Dr. Maul.

3) GRADUATE FACULTY APPOINTMENT – Dr. Michael GRIEVES

Unanimously Approved at Master’s Level

A motion by Dr. Maul and a second by Dr. Webster opened the discussion of the graduate faculty nomination for Dr. Gieves. There was concern about approving a graduate
faculty appointment at the doctoral level for an adjunct faculty member. Dr. Webster clarified the intent of the nomination by stating that Dr. Shaikh would like for Dr. Grieves to serve on doctoral committees, not chair them.

Dr. Sohn recommended the option of amending the graduate faculty appointment of Dr. Grieves to the master’s level. On a motion by Dr. Webster and a second by Dr. Harvey, the amendment to appoint Dr. Grieves at the master’s level of the graduate faculty for the Department of Engineering Systems was unanimously agreed upon and approved.

However, Dr. Richardson did note that it is not explicit in graduate policy that one must be a full-time graduate faculty member to chair a doctoral committee. There was concern about allowing other-than-full-time members of graduate faculty to chair a doctoral committee. Dr. Harvey agreed and added that if the individual leaves FL Tech before the student has completed his/her dissertation, this puts the student and the replacement advisor at a disadvantage. Dr. Sohn noted that it is up to Graduate Council to carefully review these appointment requests. Dr. Nelson reminded fellow council members that exceptions can be made to allow other-than-full-time graduate faculty members to chair doctoral committees.

4) GRADUATE FACULTY APPOINTMENTS – Drs. Jeffrey BRADSHAW, Andrew DUCHOWSKI, Terrence FONG, R. John HANSMAN, Jr., and Patrick MILLOT

Unanimously Approved at Master’s Level

A motion by Dr. Sharma and a second by Dr. Strother opened the discussion for the doctoral level appointments of the above listed individuals. Dr. Sohn noted that the first four nominees had no FL Tech affiliation. However, the last person, Dr. Patrick Millot is a visiting professor. She also informed council members that the intent is to allow these individuals to serve on (but not chair) doctoral committees.

Some members of the graduate council were hesitant to appoint these nominees at the doctoral level. On a motion by Dr. Harvey and a second by Dr. Maul, the amendment to appoint the above listed individuals at the master’s level for the Human Centered Design department was unanimously agreed upon, voted en bloc, and approved.

Dr. Kalajian noted that approving these five graduate faculty members at the master’s level puts a constraint on the Human Centered Design program.

5) CHANGING GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS IN A MAJOR – PhD in Biological Sciences

Unanimously Approved

Dr. Carroll stated that this request is being made to revise Ph.D. course requirements for Biological Sciences by reducing the number of required total semester credit hours (from 78 credit hours to 73 credit hours beyond the baccalaureate degree). This request is consistent with Graduate Policy 2.2.2 Credit Hour Requirements. Dr. Sohn reminded everyone that any changes to graduation requirements must pass through and must be approved by Graduate Council.
On a motion by Dr. Jennings and a second by Dr. Maul, the vote resulted in unanimous approval.

6) **CHANGING RESTRICTIONS IN A COURSE – BEH 5250 Intensive Practical Training in ABA**

**Approved**

Request is made to change grading in BEH 5250 from Pass/Fail to letter grades (A-F). A council member expressed concern that there was no syllabus for BEH 5250 included in the presented material. He stated that the rationale for this proposed change was not clearly defined in writing. Dr. Wilder explained that the grading for Pass/Fail is not sufficient for student feedback. He also noted that an earned letter grade is a formal system to evaluate a student’s progress, including a form used by the supervisor to grade criteria. Dr. Harvey added that the administered tests are based on practicum with instructor feedback. There was a noted reservation about assigning letter grades within the context of a clinical or applied educational setting.

On a motion by Dr. Strother and a second by Dr. Harvey, the vote resulted in 13 approvals and one abstention.

7) **CHANGING GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS IN A MAJOR – Computer Education, Mathematics Education, Science Education, Informal Science Education (four EdIS MS degrees)**

**Approved**

Request is made to modify from 33 credits to 30 credits the non-thesis options in four Education and Interdisciplinary Studies MS programs. Dr. Rassoul overviewed efforts of the College of Science to create uniformity with all degree programs offered in CoS. He noted that Physics/Space Sciences and Mathematical Sciences already have a 30 credit non-thesis option. He also stated that CoS is running out of lab space to accommodate students. He hopes to increase the ratio of MS to Ph.D. students to 3:1. He advised fellow council members that the Biological Sciences and Chemistry departments will present materials at next month’s meeting, moving in this direction as well.

There was expressed concern that the 30 credit non-thesis option was not consistent with the 33 credit non-thesis options in College of Engineering and is thus not compatible with the concept of university-wide consistency in all MS non-thesis degree programs. Dr. Kalajian noted that these academic decisions are driven by faculty members. Dr. Rassoul added that faculty members are in charge of making sure that academic standards are upheld.

On a motion by Dr. Maul and a second by Dr. Baarmand, the vote resulted in 12 approvals and two abstentions.
8) **NEW PROGRAM – MS in Supply Chain Management**

**Unanimously Approved**

Dr. Nelson noted that this is a new degree and that the old degree, Masters of Materiel Acquisition Management (major code 8320) is being closed. Dr. Richardson also stated that some of the courses in the degree program are co-listed with courses offered in College of Business.

On a motion by Dr. Maul and a second by Dr. Baarmand, the vote resulted in 12 approvals and two abstentions.

There were no remarks from the floor.

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

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:39 p.m.

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