

**Florida Atlantic University
University Graduate Council
Minutes
December 2, 2009**

Present: William McDaniel (Chair), Business; Deborah Floyd, Education; Valerie Bryan, Education; Elwood Hamlin II, CAUPA; Ronald Nyhan, CAUPA; Charles Roberts, Science; Stuart Glazer, Arts & Letters; Khaled Sobhan, Engineering; Terry Skantz, Business; Susan Folden, Nursing; Xupei Huang, Biomedical Science; George Morales, GSA.

Absent: Ashley Pinette, GSA; Ben Lowe, Arts & Letters; Ali Zilouchian, Engineering; Larry Liebovitch, Science; Shirley Gordon, Nursing; Massimo Caputi, Biomedical Science

Others Present: Barry Rosson, Graduate College; Susan Fulks, Graduate College; Anna van Dam, Graduate College; Connie Sokolowski, Graduate College; Salwa Patel, Library.

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by McDaniel.

I. Approve Minutes from November 2009 Meeting.

Due to time constraints the minutes from the November 2009 meeting were granted an extension until January by the council.

II. Electronic Theses and Dissertations

McDaniel asked what action needed to be taken next regarding Electronic Theses and Dissertations. Rosson explained the recommendation from the Graduate College was that the council no longer require three paper copies of theses/dissertations to be submitted. The library would receive only the electronic document (searchable PDF). Individual graduate programs could specify or require the student to submit paper-bound copies. It would be the student's responsibility to provide the paper copies for these programs. Rosson added that the council should discuss what role the Graduate College shall play in enforcing these requirements. For example, would the Graduate College be denying graduation to students based upon not submitting paper copies to the programs?

Floyd stated that the College of Education had discussed the issue and was in full support of moving toward electronic submission. She also indicated that the College of Education presumed the Graduate College would enforce individual program requirements regarding paper copy submission.

Roberts stated his department had done away with paper copy requirements already. He said the College of Science wanted a guarantee from the library that they would maintain electronic theses and dissertations for up to fifty years after submission. Patel affirmed to

the council that the library would commit to maintaining the ETD's and would also migrate all existing data over to the most readable and accessible format in the future. Patel also presented statistics about the frequency paper copies are checked out from the library versus electronic requests for ETD's.

Bryan moved that the Graduate College will only require electronic copies of theses and dissertations to be submitted. Paper copies are no longer required by the Graduate College. Floyd seconded the motion and the council concurred unanimously.

The council agreed that individual graduate programs may choose to require paper copies.

Floyd moved that each college or program must give individual requirements for paper copy submissions to the Manager of Degree Completion Services in the Graduate College (Connie Sokolowski) no later than March 1, 2010. This motion was seconded and approved unanimously by the council.

The suggested implementation date for this requirement is summer 2010.

III. Maintenance of Thesis & Dissertation Guidelines

Rosson suggested that the Graduate College bring a revised version of the Thesis and Dissertation Guidelines to the January 2010 meeting; this would incorporate changes resulting from the two motions just passed about ETD's.

The council agreed by consensus that this was an efficient way to proceed. College representatives are welcome to send input about the guidelines to Connie Sokolowski.

IV. DNS Application for the PhD Degree (Susan Folden)

Folden stated that many nurses 15-20 years ago did not want Ph.D's, but preferred a DNS. However, in the years since it has evolved into a research degree. The DNS students take the same types of courses a Nursing Ph.D would require, and write a dissertation. Since then, the AACN has decided that by 2015, in order to be a nurse practitioner, people need a DNP. Many other schools (WVU, UT Austin, Rush) have converted DNS's to Ph.D's.

FAU no longer offers the DNS. When the Ph.D. was introduced, all current DNS students were given the option to take three additional courses and receive the Ph.D. rather than the DNS. Now, students from earlier years who graduated with the DNS are asking to do the same. These students would have to take one additional course and prove competency in the other two. The Registrar would not remove the DNS degree and replace it with the Ph.D. on the student's transcript. If approved, the students would simply receive the Ph.D. after fulfilling the requirements in the proposal.

Bryan asked how far back this policy would apply, if passed. Floyd said she supports the proposal if the Nursing faculty is solidly behind it.

Floyd moved to support the proposal to allow graduates who currently hold the DNS to apply for the Ph.D. and complete it according to the proposal. Nyhan seconded the motion and the council approved unanimously.

V. Half-Time Status for Graduate Students

Rosson presented the background information in support of a full-time equivalent status for graduate students. Graduate students need to be certified as half-time or full-time in order to defer loans, qualify for loans, or receive student health insurance, among other reasons. Rosson distributed a draft of proposed language and explained that if the council approves the policy, he will then proceed to meet with IRM and the Registrar about implementation.

If approved, the Graduate College will use the petition form (Request to Waive a University Regulation) to approve such requests. Petitions must be filed for each term for which it is requested.

Nyhan moved to accept the policy pending two additions (mention the use of Form 10 and that this request must be granted on a term-by-term basis). Huang seconded the motion, with the council concurring unanimously.

VI. Information Requests: Graduate Awards for Counseling; Dissertation Workshops

Rosson spoke briefly about the Graduate Faculty Mentoring Award. Bryan mentioned that former winners of the award should comprise the team who selects the next year's winners. Rosson agreed this was a wonderful idea.

VII. Other Business

McDaniel asked if there had been any movement on the Due Process Committee. Rosson explained the Graduate College had completed the research at other universities that was requested by the council. Audra Lazarus was waiting for the committee to call her to a meeting.

Floyd asked if the council could ask the Office of the General Counsel to draft the language for the document. Rosson said David Kian recommended the document be generated by the faculty members.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.