

Graduate Council

Thursday, February 26, 2015, 12:15-1:30 pm

President's Conference Room

Minutes

Members: Godwyll, Mettler, Lichty, Pascale, Vose, Kantner, Biernacki, Gilg, Stanley, Zhao, Elfayoumy, Lange, Jaeger, Nies, Candler, Goel, R. Patterson.

Guests: N/A

Dr. Kantner calls the meeting to order at 12:15 pm.

The Dean welcomes the Council members, thanking everyone for being able to attend the new day and time. He then introduced the Director of the Graduate School, Amanda Pascale to give an update about scholarships.

Graduate Scholarships and Auzenne Fellowship updates:

There are fifty scholarship applications in and the deadline is March 6. However there are some students who do not qualify, for example those who are current students. These students will be contacted. As far as International students, some are eligible depending on if they have a FAFSA on file. Some International students are not able to complete a FAFSA.

After going through the requirements this leaves thirty applicants and sixteen programs are represented among these students. In order to recruit students, some marketing has been done. Prospective students were contacted as well as those who had incomplete applications. They will also be contacting current UNF seniors as well. Dr. Pascale then asked if the Council knows of any applicants, to let them know about the scholarship.

The council members then asked if the scholarship is different from assistantships. If this is new or will it be available every year? Also, if this is only for out of state students? Who are the Graduate Directors supposed to contact if they know of high ranking applicants? Will they need to send an email to the applicants and encourage them to apply?

Dr. Kantner and Dr. Pascale explain that the scholarship and assistantships are different and the scholarship is used differently. Also, that is not only for out of state students. This is more of a recruitment tool. The scholarship is \$10,000 whether the applicant is in state or out of state. For the Program Directors who know of certain applicants they want to recruit for this scholarship they can contact the Graduate School. The Directors can send an email and encourage their applicants to apply for the scholarship.

Dr. Pascale then explains that the Auzenne fellowship is open now and is available for current students. This is for underrepresented populations of any kind. The application is now available online, with a deadline of April 24th. There are eight applications so far and a few are renewals.

The Council members then asked if someone receives this now, will they receive the award next Fall? Also, if they graduate in December can they still apply? How much are the student's receiving and who decides what programs are underrepresented? Is this done internally?

Dr. Pascale answered that the students would receive funds now but will not receive any funding during the summer. If they graduate in December, they can still apply and the amount is \$2500 and they are able to renew. There is a set amount given for this fellowship and it is state funded. In order to decide the underrepresented programs there is a committee who will decide. The applicants are chosen based on an award system, such as high G.P.A.

Dr. Godwyll explains how the committee determined the meaning of minorities last year, for example if one program has mostly women, then the male is the minority.

Dr. Pascale then explained that the applicants have to be a Florida resident; therefore International students are not eligible.

A Council member asked if there will ever be anything for International applicants, and Dr. Kantner responded that the assistantships could help them with tuition. He is also requesting for more funding for assistantships and authority to AA and the Administration and Finance.

New Graduate Program Proposals:

Dr. Kantner explains the process briefly on how a program is approved and how there are a series of stages. Proposals are due on February 1st and again on September 1st. Three have been received with a request to plan. The first is MS in Athletic Training, which is just a change from the Bachelor's degree to the Master's degree. The second is a MS in Social Work and a MS in Communication. The MS in Communication is a bit different because it will have five different concentrations across campus, such as Business, Leadership and Health.

Approval of January 2015 meeting minutes:

Dr. Kantner makes a motion for the January minutes to be approved. The Council members were all in favor with none opposed.

Graduate Admissions Policy and Applicant GPA calculation:

Dr. Kantner and Dr. Pascale explain how the GPA's are currently being calculated. They are using the two plus two model. The first two years are normally general education classes and the last two are the classes for their major. International students in some cases, the school has no semesters, therefore there is no recalculation. They will then have to submit a test score. Another instance is that some students may have taken an internship which gave them a pass or fail. Then they have to figure out what is assigned to the pass and what is assigned to the fail for the grade. The idea now, is to use the cumulative GPA.

The Dean explains that the Graduate School felt uncomfortable as far as what the office is presenting in this area. Therefore they want to get rid of the two plus two model and do the cumulative GPA.

The Council members explain that there may be a problem with this because some students do not do well in the first two years and then do great in the last two years. One council member asked if the Graduate School has done studies on how other institutions are doing this? Also, some programs do not focus on the grade for certain classes that do not pertain to their particular program. They care about the classes' specific to their program.

Dr. Pascale explained that she has done a study on other institutions, and the results were scattered and there were no consistencies. However, the decision would still be up to the Directors on how they will admit applicants.

Dr. Godwyll then motioned that the policy be amended and the cumulative GPA be used.

The Council members explain that this may not be an issue if all programs are looking at different things to admit students. However, is there a real impact on how many exceptions Graduate programs admit?

Dr. Pascale explained that the state of Florida does allow a percentage for exceptions, in which the Graduate School does not come close, however if they do go over this percentage, there could be an issue.

Dr. Goel then presented the idea to look back and do an analysis for the calculations from last year for the cumulative GPA.

Dr. Kantner then tabled the motion and agreed with Dr. Goel to have the analysis recorded and this item revisited.

Some items discussed in regards to the calculation of GPA:

- Some students will complete classes as a Post- Baccalaureate student, and receive high grades; however these classes are not included in the GPA.
- Students may ask why certain students are admitted and others were not.
- The last sixty hours is normally higher than the cumulative. If they have less than a GPA they might have to take the GRE.
- In the Biology Department, more do better in their general education classes than their major classes.
- If the cumulative was given, the Directors would still have to calculate the last thirty classes
- Would this be more work for the programs?
- Is there a way Directors can receive the overall GPA and then the last sixty hours, while keeping the GPA requirement.
- Could the upper level classes be calculated?

Dr. Pascale explained that it depends on the institution on what upper level classes are? Some are not consistent.

Those in favor of the motion by Dr. Godwyll to change the calculation to cumulative were two and the remaining Council members opposed the motion. Therefore Dr. Kantner explained that the issue will be revisited.

Dr. Godwyll then made a motion to change the wording for “foreign institutions” in the form for policies. He also asked for clarification on the policy stating, if someone has a master’s degree they may be exempt from taking the GRE.

Dr. Kantner explained that this policy is up to the Program Directors, if they would like to exempt students who have a master’s degree already. Also, that he will wait for now to change the wording for “foreign institutions”.

Appeals Committee:

Dr. Kantner mentioned the appeals process and how the Graduate students are sent to the undergraduate office and then to a committee composed of student representatives and others. However, he felt the Graduate students should first come to the Graduate Dean and then the committee. The members are selected by the Faculty Association and Student government.

The Council then discussed how the undergraduate students may not be aware of graduate school and the difference. Also if the contract explained how many students and faculty members can be on the committee?

Dr. Kantner answered that the Provost makes the final decision and the contract does speak about how many faculty there should be on the committee. He then explained that they could work on this issue later.

Graduate School Bylaws:

Dr. Kantner reiterates to the Council what sections will be changed due to the last meeting and also the additional items that were not discussed. He asked if the council members would like to take part in the Graduate Faculty process.

The Council members explained that they previously decided not to be included in the process of faculty becoming Graduate faculty members.

Dr. Kantner then asked for the Council to review the section where it states who should be attending the Council meetings.

Items addressed for later discussion:

- Calculation of GPA: analysis be completed for review
- Appeals committee for Graduate students: changing the process
- Bylaws: Review those who should attend each meeting (student representative from the GSO and someone from One Stop).

Meeting is adjourned at 1:41 pm

