

Graduate Council
Minutes
President's Conference Room, 1/2800
January 26, 2016

Attendance: Alloway, Bruey, Candler, Colom, Gilson, Goel, Jaeger, Johnson, Hogan, Kantner, Nies, Pascale, Patterson, Vose, Whalen, Zoellner .

Guests: Chad Learch.

Dr. Kantner called the meeting to order at 12:15 pm and began by welcoming the members and guests of the Council and making several announcements:

First, Dr. Kantner stated that planning for research week is still on-going and that graduate students, who are being included more explicitly in SOARS this year, are encouraged to apply and participate on April 15. Participants nominated from this event will also have the possibility to partake in the State competition the following week. Secondly, Dr. Pascale relayed that graduate scholarship applications are now available on the website. She explained the procedures for selection and also emphasized that these scholarships are intended as a recruiting tool toward yielding first-time students. The deadlines are March 4 (for applications) and April 15 (for students to accept offers). Lastly, Dr. Kantner touched on graduate assistantships. He commented that the ultimate goal will be to fully waive graduate assistant tuition for all students working and enrolled full-time at UNF. He then stated that this objective may still not be fully achieved this year, because current tuition waivers still lag behind the fixed amount of stipends that have been allocated.

A motion was made to approve the October 2015 Minutes. All members were in favor with none opposed.

Dr. Kantner continued the discussion on the development of new policies for the 4+1 (Bachelors to Masters) accelerated programs. Three different draft Policies & Regulations were distributed to the Council attendees:

Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy (SAPP): The main focus of SAPP will be to establish the requirement that students remain in good academic standing by maintaining a cumulative UNF Graduate GPA of 3.0 in only the program of study for which they are currently enrolled. The Council engaged in a lengthy discussion on several points including how to determine satisfactory progress and the appeals process. Dr. Kantner pledged to use many of the useful comments to further develop this policy.

Graduate Transfer Credit Policy: This policy focuses on the number of credits that can be transferred to a program from either outside of UNF or from another program within the University. Dr. Kantner outlined some key points of the draft

policy and a discussion ensued about different aspects of his proposal including the requirements for certificate programs and time limits for transferring credit. Dr. Kantner ended the dialogue on this policy by asking the council attendees for some future feedback in order to make progress toward gaining final approval.

Cross-Level Listing of Graduate and Undergraduate Courses Policy: Dr. Kantner mentioned that this is a new policy being pushed by the Provost. The substantial change will be that there will be no more 3000/5000 class listings authorized and that students will not be able to attend 3000 or 4000 level courses and later take the 6000 version of the same course again as part of the accelerated 4+1 degree program. Dr. Kantner suggested a solution for alleviating some of the pains associated with this transition for graduate students by recommending lowering existing class thresholds for determining if a class will make or not. Lowering the threshold to seven students, which is consistent among other institutions, is currently being considered. Dr. Kantner closed this topic by mentioning that, although not yet finalized, the framework of these policies is now in place. The next step would be for Departments considering implementing these accelerated programs to produce guidelines by the end of the semester in order for the policy to be considered for the APC process next year.

The floor then opened for other topics and one attendee addressed the subject of additional compensation for faculty members conducting independent studies and other additional tasks beyond their normal work assignment. Dr. Kantner replied that the University is currently working toward implementing a policy. Presently, the Union has been tasked to poll their members and provide a counterproposal to the proposal from the Deans. The Provost has declared that existing College policies will still remain in effect until a new policy is approved and put into place.

The last topic introduced by another attendee was the policy for walking at the graduation ceremony before all requirements were completed. Dr. Kantner was unable to recall procedures that were recently drafted with the Registrar and promised to research and forward that information to all members.

The meeting adjourned at 1:20pm