

Graduate Council
Minutes
President's Conference Room, 1/2800
February 23, 2016

Attendance: Alloway, Christie, Chuan, Colom, Curry, Gilg, Gilson, Goel, Hogan, Jaeger, Johnson, Kantner, Nies, Nile, Patterson, Provost, Vose, Whalen.

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 provided some updates on impending matters. Research week will culminate on April 15, 2016, when SOARS will include graduate students. Graduate students abstracts, which are selected from the SOARS applicants (5-7 students), will be forwarded on to the State wide symposium in Gainesville, the following Friday. The Abstracts from graduate students are due March 15. Students can apply through the SOARS website. Questions on this subject can be directed to Dr. Pascale and Dr. Kantner. The goal is to have a good number of applications and a great showing at both SOARS and the State-wide Symposium. It is anticipated that the excellent results from last year will be duplicated again.

Secondly, Dr. Kantner provided an update on the graduate assistantship program. He relayed that a certain amount of stipend had been allocated to each of the Colleges. This year, the stipend was calculated based on a combination of two different measures: both the undergraduate FTE and the graduate headcount. Unlike previous years, the Graduate School was asked to pull in waivers and allocate them differently than has been done in the past. The waivers are now tied to the graduate assistantships and the assistantships must be at least half-time appointments or higher in order for those students to receive a waiver. Each of the Colleges implemented their own process to determine allocations. About a week and half ago the Colleges sent their requests to the Graduate School. The stipend requested was actually \$773,000. Some of these are what are called base stipend requests. These are Academic Affairs allocated monies according to the measures described earlier. About \$573,000 was the base request. There was also \$200,000 of requests for so-called strategic stipends. These are non-recurring funds, which Academic Affairs were persuaded to contribute for the coming year. Because there is \$200,000 of requests for \$100,000 of waiver, Dr. Kantner will need to review these. There are a number of criteria that must be used to evaluate the requests including how they are tied to strategic emphasis, whether they are FT generating and so forth. An initial brief review of the rationales provided with the submitted requests all seemed reasonable, so it must be determined how to distribute them. This should be done within the next couple of weeks. Finally, the waiver that was tied to all of this is a total of \$749,000. The goal is to provide full waivers for graduate assistants. If they work fulltime (20 hours), they will receive full waivers and if they work half time, they will obtain half waivers. There will likely be more

requests than there is money to allocate towards this year. In all probability, the waivers will be distributed proportionally. All Graduate Assistants will get as close as possible to a full waiver this year, with the goal of trying to increase that in future years by obtaining more waiver authority. There was a bill in the Florida legislature to fully fund all waivers this year, which would have been an unfunded mandate. But, it appears that this bill was either defeated or never made it beyond Committee. Nevertheless, UNF is still moving ahead anyway, even if it cannot be fully instituted this year.

Lastly, Dr. Kantner touched on the "Policy for Walking in an Earlier Ceremony". He relayed that there has always been an undergraduate policy for graduates walking early. In the past that Policy was also applied to graduate students. Because this was not working very well, it was decided to add a graduate student section to the Policy. This is intended to make it clearer and provide graduate students with a process to follow. Dr. Kantner stressed that in reality this is not an official policy, but rather a standard agreed upon practice that outlines procedures for students to request to walk early. There were no questions or comments from the Council attendees.

A motion was made to approve the January 2016 Minutes. All members were in favor with none opposed.

Dr. Kantner continued the discussion by providing updates on several Policy drafts that have been in progress for some time. These were discussed before during several Graduate Council meetings. Revisions were made to the Policies and they were reviewed and approved by the Council of Deans, which is one of the stages required to obtain Policy approval. Dr. Kantner explained that the Council of Deans includes not only the Deans, but also representatives from the Faculty Association and Department Chairs, as well. Dr. Kantner also relayed that he met with the Registrar and Financial Aid Teams to gather their input. They communicated that the proposed changes would have an impact on their areas. This generated another set of revisions and is reflected in the newly distributed versions. Specifically, modifications were made to the "Graduate GPA Policy" and the "Graduate Academic Standing Policy". The key issue was that the notion of satisfactory academic progress is closely tied to federal regulations for financial aid eligibility and the proposed Policy did not match this (For Financial Aid purposes, good academic standing is based on the entirety of academic work on a graduate transcript rather than only all of the academic work completed in a specific Program.). The latest changes to the Policy now help to distinguish between Satisfactory Academic Progress (for financial aid) and good Academic Standing (for Graduate Programs). While financial aid will continue to use Satisfactory Academic Progress as its criteria, the "Graduate Academic Standing Policy" will utilize the cumulative Graduate Program GPA in the program of study in which a student is currently enrolled to determine good academic standing. A Council attendee asked for further clarification of the proposed Policy by describing a scenario in which a student did poorly in a Program and later resumed the same program. Dr. Kantner explained

that as the proposed Policy currently stands, the cumulative GPA would be calculated for the student's entire academic work in that Program.

With no further questions and comments, a motion was made to move the "Graduate Academic Standing Policy" and the "Graduate GPA Policy" forward for approval. All members were in favor with none opposed.

Dr. Kantner then touched on the "Graduate Transfer Credit Policy". The Registrar and the Council of Deans did not have any concerns with this Policy. Dr. Kantner reiterated that there had been some discussion in the past over the role of certificate credits and how they will be applied toward Programs. Some clarifications were made to address this in the draft. It was added that all certificate hours would count when a student is enrolled in a certificate and graduate program, which are occurring concurrently. Council members were given time to examine the Policy. Dr. Kantner went on to say that three other Policies are tied to the proposed Policy: ("Concurrent Graduate Degrees", "Second Masters Residency Requirement", and the "Credit Earned as a Post Baccalaureate"). Since, all of these Policy statements are now incorporated into the "Graduate Transfer Credit Policy", Dr. Kantner proposed terminating the three aforementioned policies. This would make future policy changes simpler and avoid possible conflicts among the three as revisions are made. A Council Member asked if the transfer Policy was in line with other SUS schools. Dr. Kantner confirmed that it was. He provided an example of the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's Program. At UNF the initial discussion was to allow only 9 graduate courses taken at an undergraduate level to transfer to a Graduate Program as part of an accelerated track. However, other schools like the University of Florida allow 12 transfer credits, so it was decided to adopt that number since it seems to be standard for Florida Universities. Dr. Kantner commented that since SACS has not actually issued a ruling on this and has declined to regulate accelerated programs until now, UNF will move forward with this. He also added that if SACS later moves to regulate this, this policy will be revisited as necessary.

A motion was initiated to eliminate the "Concurrent Graduate Degrees", "The Second Masters Residency Requirement" and the "Credit Earned as a Post Baccalaureate" Policies and move the "Graduate Transfer Credit Policy" forward for approval. All members were in favor with none opposed.

Lastly, Dr. Kantner touched on the "Cross-Level Listing of Graduate and Undergraduate Courses" Policy. Dr. Kantner stressed that Shawn Brayton and the Provost, Dr. Traynham, feel strongly about moving this Policy forward. This Policy will likely cause a great deal of work for a couple of Programs (Philosophy and English) and occasionally for other Programs, where there is a 3000 level class listed with a 5000 level class. Dr. Kantner stressed that grandfathering Programs will not be possible after implementation of the Policy, but a few years may be given to move things in the right direction. A meeting will be necessary to discuss the way ahead for those affected most by this Policy. Dr. Gilson shared that at the last meeting she understood the objectives and rationale for the changes that were

presented. She added that at the time, she assumed this to be an imperative of the Provost. However, during a Department meeting attended by the Provost last week, he expressed some thoughts that seemed to conflict with the proposed changes to the Policy. She went on to say that this initiative is very important for her Department, because implementing the proposed Policy will be very labor intensive for them. Dr. Kantner agreed that the Policy changes would not be easy for some Programs to implement and indicated that this proposed Policy did not necessarily need to go forward today, if there is still some discomfort. Dr. Kantner stated that he would like to consult with the Provost again and revisit this issue again at the next meeting.

There were no further questions or issues raised by the Committee Members and the meeting adjourned at 12:45pm