

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

Attendance: Alloway, Bruey, Candler, Christie, Colom, Eggen, Gilson, Goel, Hawthorne, Hogan, C. Johnson, T. Johnson, Kantner, Nies, Pascale, Patterson, Provost, Tiryakioglu, Vose.

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

Graduate Council members were reminded that this will be the last gathering for AY 15-16. The first meeting for AY 16-17 is scheduled for September 27, 2016.

Dr. Kantner began by providing a quick summary of the recently concluded research week. UNF graduate students participated in SOARS on April 15, 2016 and seven participants, representing nearly all of the Colleges, were selected and partook in the Statewide Symposium at the University of Florida the following Friday. Although competing against mostly doctoral candidates, the group did very well.

The 2017 Symposium will be held at Florida State University and the Governor and other legislators have been invited to attend. One of the goals of next year's event will be to highlight graduate education in the State. (Note: This has changed since the Graduate Council meeting. The 2017 Symposium is now scheduled to be held at the University of South Florida.)

While at the same Symposium, Dr. Kantner also shared that he served on a panel, which reviewed graduate student retention and completion rates. Based off of some limited data that he was able to collect before the event, it appears that UNF has been performing well with its retention rates. However, completion rates appear to be relatively "slow". Dr. Kantner provided preliminary insight into some of the data and mentioned that he plans to examine this area more closely in the coming months and present his findings to the Graduate Council members sometime in the Fall.

A motion was made to approve the February 2016 Minutes. All Graduate Council members present were in favor with none opposed.

Dr. Kantner continued the discussion by touching on "Downtown Courses", the first agenda item. He stated that there have been a number of requests and or possible opportunities to be able to secure regular spaces to offer and conduct courses downtown. However, the possibility of UNF gaining access to a building downtown will likely not come to fruition. Nonetheless, Dr. Kantner thought it would be useful to share some thoughts on this subject, knowing that some Programs are already

providing courses downtown. Dr. Candler relayed that the MPA Program pays for its own space and has been conducting some classes at the Non-Profit Center (former Haydon Burns Library). Although only on a small scale, his staff has been satisfied with the results. Dr. Kantner commented that since there will be an associated cost anyway, perhaps there might be interest among other Programs to aggregate resources and conduct graduate courses at the same location or perhaps somewhere else. Dr. Johnson added that the Coggin College of Business is also interested in having a presence downtown and is actively pursuing that possibility as well. Dr. Kantner ended the discussion on this topic by stating that there is nothing imminent at the moment, but it is perhaps a good time for Programs to pull some thoughts together.

The second item on the agenda was the “Accelerated Bachelor’s-Master’s Track” draft document. Graduate Council members were provided a copy of the paper. Dr. Kantner noted that this is a continuation of discussions on how graduate programs should implement accelerated bachelor’s/master’s tracks or pathways. He pointed out that the framework of the guidance is located in the chart on the second page. The plan calls for the sequential completion of degrees, whereby students are first awarded a BA/BS and later a graduate degree upon completion of each. After finishing their BA/BS, students immediately transition into the graduate degree program. Participants will be permitted to count 12 credit hours of graduate courses taken as an undergraduate toward their graduate degree. The procedure for implementing these tracks is described in the draft document and should be simpler than the steps required for creating a new degree program. Essentially, a pathway is being offered to join two existing degree programs. “Student Eligibility” on page three will be a very important factor in this initiative. Not only will it be vital to select qualified students, but entry into the pathway can impact a participant’s excess hours, financial aid and a whole variety of items. Dr. Kantner proposed using USF’s model for the application and the transition for the Bachelor’s to Master’s process. Two USF sample forms (“Accelerated Program Application” and “Accelerated Program Progression: Graduate Admission”) were provided to all the Graduate Council members. These forms would serve as a guide and will be revised for UNF use. Dr. Kantner stressed that this would initially be a manual process and would not be automated until it can be determined how everything will work. An important addition to the “Accelerated Program Application” will be for students to identify what graduate courses they will be taking as an undergraduate that would eventually transfer into their graduate degree progress. Dr. Kantner addressed a concern that some Programs like Engineering are not able to determine in advance what courses will be required. He indicated that he is aware of the issue, but there would still need to be some sort of framework necessary to allow for coding. This is necessary so that the Register can identify those participating in the accelerated pathway. Dr. Kantner mentioned that there are also a host of financial implications to this initiative. Pages four and five of the draft document outline some of the important tuition, fees and financial aid considerations. Students will be required to consult with the Financial Aid Office before they enter into any Program. Dr. Kantner also pointed out that the “Accelerated Program Progression: Graduate

Admission” form provides an accelerated mechanism for students to be admitted into a graduate program without completing a full on-line application. (The other form, “Accelerated Program Application” only admits students into the pathway.) Dr. Kantner expressed concern that there are some timing issues of how accelerated programs will work due to the deadlines for graduate assistantship positions etc. So, at some point he will need to approach the Graduate Council members to resolve this important piece. Dr. Kantner added that Mechanical Engineering and Computer Science have accelerated programs already and are serving effectively as a “test models”. He hopes to have his input on this completed this summer and added that the APC Process will start in the fall. He recommended that Programs begin moving forward with development of their accelerated pathways now.

The meeting concluded with Dr. Kantner requesting potential topics to address in the new academic year. Additional funding and advertising were suggested as possible subjects.

There were no further questions or issues raised by the Graduate Committee members and the meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm