

MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING
December 17, 2002
Pending Approval

Meeting convened at 3:05 –Dean Atlas presiding.

Members present: John Firriolo, Susan Griffin, Ruth Huber, Waldemar Karwowski, Bruce Kemelgor, Henry Luka, Peter Meyer, William Pierce, and James Wittliff.

Ex Officio: Ronald Atlas, Michael Cuyjet, and Richard Stremel.

Members Absent: Vicki Hines-Martin, Carlton Hornung, Carolyn Klinge, Stephen Looney, Dismas Masolo, Phyllis Metcalf-Turner, Suzanne Meeks, Ron Sahoo, Joseph Steffen, Grant Taylor, Deborah Voltz and William Wead.

Guests: William Rising.

1. Approval of the Minutes from the November 26, 2002 meeting of Graduate Council.
MOTION: To approve the Minutes of the September meeting. Moved by Bruce Kemelgor and seconded by Ruth Huber.
PASSED.
2. Report of the Curriculum Committee.
The Curriculum Committee met prior to the Council meeting, but the Provost's Office requested a delay on curricular actions until some issues can be clarified in specific units. The Committee has noted an increase in the number of curricular requests that are inaccurate, incomplete and do not provide a syllabus that allows evaluation of the request. The Committee views its role as important to the integrity of the graduate education process and awaits a January meeting with Dr. Shapiro and Unit representatives.
3. Discussion of Graduate Student Tax Liability
In early December, Bob Cochran (Payroll Manager) sent a bundle of tax information to graduate students on the UofL payroll. The tax liability of graduate students has been confusing and Council discussed the information. Dean Atlas pointed out there is no withholding from Fellowships and Scholarships, despite the IRS position that only tuition, fees, books and supplies are tax free. The largest of these, tuition and fees, are not typically paid by students out of their stipend so a significant portion is taxable. The discussion centered on the concern that we were doing our students a disservice by exposing them to potential tax liability, no matter how small the tax burden may be. Henry Luka, President of GSA, will discuss this issue with the Graduate Student Council and report back to Graduate Council.

4. Report on African-American Graduate Student Recruitment

Michael Cuyjet presented and discussed a report that was delivered to the President and Provost in November, 2002. The intent of the report was to highlight the progress of the current Graduate School administration over the past three years. Since fall 1999, the enrollment of African-American graduate students has increased by 314 students or 17%. This growth has occurred largely in the doctoral programs with the College of Arts & Sciences and School of Medicine showing significant improvement. The credit for these increases goes to the individual departments and programs for their recruiting efforts and to the Graduate School for its emphasis on "Diversity Scholarships" and recruitment.

The Graduate School serves as the University's conduit for participation in the Doctoral Scholars Program of the Southern Regional Education Board. This SREB program provides scholarships (funded through CPE) to increase the number of underrepresented ethnic minorities in the professoriate.

The Graduate School has also established "feeder" relationships with other institutions to produce viable potential candidates. We are one of forty-five schools participating in the Feeders Scholars Program at Florida A&M University and have pursued contacts with other historically black colleges and universities. HBCU's from surrounding states have been invited to an annual recruitment fair at UofL. The Graduate School has applied to become part of the McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program which is directed at underserved populations.

The Graduate School has made progress over the past three years in recruiting African-American graduate students and will continue to work with departments and programs to enhance this growth even further.

5. Other Business

Dean Atlas reported on the recent Council of Graduate Schools meeting and highlighted some of the concerns noted. The affirmative action decision in Michigan will have far reaching implications for admission offices. Institutions have identified Chinese graduate students with totally falsified transcripts and documents. China is planning on doubling the number of graduate students it currently has around the world.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service is developing Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS). The INS is compelling academic institutions to implement SEVIS and enroll all foreign students in "full compliance" with SEVIS by January 30, 2003. A module to interface PeopleSoft and SEVIS has not yet been installed. SEVIS requires the tracking of all foreign graduate students, even changes in address must be reported within ten days of the move to avoid possible deportation. SEVIS does not permit corrections for data entry; a misspelled name could be grounds for deportation.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.