MINUTES
Graduate Council
April 15, 2010

Present:  Ex officio:  M. Sohn (Chairperson), R.L. Alford


Guests:  W. Arrasmith, L. Baksay, R. Bonhomme, G. Boy, D. Carroll, E. Kalajian, S. Koksal, M. Shaikh, C. Young

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 P.M.

Dr. Sohn welcomed all Council members and guests to “Russ Weigel Day” in honor of Dr. Weigel’s retirement at the end of this term. Dr. Weigel thanked everyone, noting he had enjoyed his time with the Graduate Council. He introduced Dr. David Carroll who will be representing Biology as their Council member beginning Fall 2010.

Dr. Layne distributed the Florida Tech policy “Process and Guidelines for Proposing New Degree/Program” to aid in presentation of proposed programs to the Council.

1) MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2010 GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING
Unanimous Approval

The minutes of the March 25, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Dr. Weigel and a second by Dr. Maul.

2) NEW MAJOR (tabled at the March 2010 Council meeting)
Ph.D. in SYSTEMS ENGINEERING
Includes 4 New Courses: SYS 6010 Advanced Topics in Decision & Risk Analysis, SYS 6020 Advanced Topics in Systems Modeling and Analysis, SYS 6030 Advanced Topics in Process Engineering and SYS 6040 Seminar in Systems Engineering

Approved

Dr. Koksal reported that the Math Department and the Systems Engineering Department had met to discuss overlap of courses, new courses, competition between departments and faculty concerns. Although she was assured that her department’s concerns will be addressed, she believes the new program will compete with Operations Research and that faculty issues remain a major concern. She asks that the possibility of competition be considered, reminding the members that she wants Operations Research to move forward. Dr. Dshalalow supports the concern about competition, noting that the two departments have a history of
“sharing” students. He feels that some students will now be funneled to Systems Engineering. He advised that Operations Research was not satisfied about course overlaps/common major courses. Dr. Shaikh thanked all who had attended their meeting to discuss concerns about the new Major. He stressed that this is a College of Engineering program and not a joint program or a competition. All Systems Engineering courses are offered through COE, again emphasizing that this is not a joint program but a COE program. Dr. Arrasmith said that about 70% of Systems Engineering jobs went to the D.O.D. and that the D.O.D. has a separate job description for Operations Research. Further discussion touched on differences in how the same course is taught by Operations Research and by Systems Engineering, flexibility of the Operations Research Ph.D. program for the Systems Engineering students, addition/loss of faculty in departments, possibility of programs using the same resources, DOE and others looking for a specific Ph.D. in their field for government employment, the goal of increasing research funding, approval of the Provost that the proposed new Major is consistent with Florida Tech’s mission and is financially feasible.

On a motion from Dr. Richardson and a second from Dr. Webster, the vote was 13 in favor, 1 opposed with 3 abstentions.

3) **REVISED PROGRAM – Revise Graduation Requirements for all DMES Oceanography programs to include both the thesis and non-thesis option**

   **Approved**

   On a motion from Dr. Maul and a second from Dr. Vamosi, the vote was 16 in favor with 1 abstention.

4) **NEW MAJOR: MBA in INTERNET MARKETING (new Major for existing MBA program)**
   Includes 3 New Courses: BUS 5621 Internet Marketing
   BUS 5622 Integrated Marketing Comm
   BUS 5623 Technologies of Internet Marketing

   **Unanimous approval**

   On a motion from Dr. Maul and a second from Dr. Gallo, the vote was unanimous to approve the new Major and courses.

5) **NEW MAJOR**
   **MS in INTERDISCIPLINARY SCIENCE – includes 1 new course**
   ISC 5200 Professional Interdisciplinary Science Master’s (PRISM) Seminar

   **Approved**
Dr. Baksay introduced this proposed new major that the Physics/Space Sciences Department wants to make a formal option for students who are presently sort of “finding out along the way”. He said that the NSF is very interested and supportive of this proposal. The program has components from all colleges and programs, does not require any new courses but will offer one new Seminar. Dr. Gallo offered a rhetorical question about the 31 hour program content: 13 hours foundation – no Science; 12 STEM – not any Science; 6 hours lecture – no Science. Could a student take a 31 hour Science program without any Science?

Dr. Maul stated he would like to see a list of courses to be offered. Dr. Gallo noted the admission requirements state that a student ‘should have’ an Undergraduate degree in a STEM field – would a student be accepted without one? Some course discussion followed between Dr. Baksay and Dr. Gallo – another member said it sounds like a MS degree in General Studies. Dr. Baksay replied that the intent is to open this degree to a broad group of students. Several members expressed concern that the program was too vague. Dr. Baksay replied that it was still open – not defined yet – and they want to see what interests are expressed.

Dr. Sohn stated that it appeared that most members do not object to the proposed program, but feel that the content needs work. She then called for the vote, reminding the members that they are voting on the New Major, but not the New Course. The course must first be approved by the Catalog Director and will then be sent for an electronic vote.

On a motion by Dr. Earles and a second by Dr. Silaghi, the remaining 14 members in attendance voted 4 in favor, 2 opposed with 8 abstentions. Verified by Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised, 10th Edition, the motion was approved.

6) REMARKS FROM THE FLOOR

Dr. Bonhomme touched briefly on the issue of lines being blurred among disciplines. He urged all members to give consideration to the idea of interdisciplinary programs as a new venture while maintaining the integrity of the degree.

There were no other remarks from the floor.

The next meeting will be held on the 3rd Thursday, September 16, 2010

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:19 P.M.

Rosemary G. Layne, Ed.D.
Director of Graduate Programs