

## GRADUATE AFFAIRS COUNCIL

Friday, December 12, 2008

1:00 p.m. – Hurlburt 248

**PRESENT:** Elizabeth Altieri, Richard Bay, Matthew Brunner, Jeff Aspelmeier for Ann Elliott, Lori Elis, Kristin Froemling, Gerald Gordon, Dennis Grady, Nadine Hartig, Donald Langrehr, Lisa Onega, Eric Mesmer, Douglas Mitchell, Nora Reilly, Clarence Rose, Susan Schoppelrey, Claire Waldron, James Werth, Paul Witkowsky.

### 1. MINUTES

Minutes from the November 7, 2008 meeting were approved as presented.

### 2. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Graduate Faculty** – Three applications for Adjunct Graduate Faculty Standing requiring subcommittee review recommended for approval. One application not requiring subcommittee review was presented and recommended for approval (see attached). A motion was made and seconded to approve the applications as presented. The motion carried unanimously. Dr. Grady asked Council members to remind chairs to submit applications for faculty who do not have a current application on file in the graduate college and are teaching Spring semester to submit an application before the semester begins.

**Academic Course and Program Review** – The subcommittee met on Friday, November 21, 2008 and held virtual meetings December 2 and 11, 2008. Minutes from those meetings were provided, and the following proposals were recommended for approval. Discussion followed. Liz Altieri explained that the number of proposals presented for the School of Teacher Education and Leadership for academic year 2008-09 are due to new licensure regulations affecting every graduate and undergraduate course and syllabus. A motion was made and seconded to approve the recommendations as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

### MATH AND STATISTICS

New Course Proposal

01-STAT-08

STAT 644, Applied Statistics for Teachers –  
REVISED

### BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Program Revision

01-COBE-08

Program Revision, Reduction in prerequisite  
coursework and an increase in the number of  
semester hours

## PSYCHOLOGY

Program Revision

09-PSYC-08

Program Revision, MA Clinical Psychology

10-PSYC-08

Program Revision, MS Clinical Psychology

## READING

- Course Description and Syllabi Change
- 1 01-EDEF-08 EDEF 606. Educational Research.
- Course Description, Title and Syllabi Change
- 1 01-EDSP-08 EDSP 669. Diagnostic Educational Procedures for Exceptional Individuals to *Diagnostic and Assessment Procedures for Individuals with Disabilities*
- Course Prerequisite, Description, Title and Syllabi Change
- 1 01-EDRD-08 EDRD 624. Administration and Supervision of Reading Programs to *Leadership in Literacy: Administration, Supervision, and Coaching*
- 2 03-EDRD/EDSP-08 EDRD/EDSP 641. Classroom Development and Remediation of Language Skills to *Assessment and Intervention for Language Development*
- Course Prerequisite, Title and Syllabi Change
- 1 04-EDRD-08 EDRD 688. Advanced Study in Reading Skills to *Foundations of Literacy Instruction*
- Course Prerequisite, Description, Title and Syllabi Change
- 1 05-EDRD-08 EDRD 692. Reading Diagnosis: Testing, Prescription and Remediation to *Reading Diagnosis: Assessment to Inform Instruction*

- EDRD/EDSP 695. Alternative Approaches to Reading to *Alternative Approaches to Reading Instruction*
- 2 06-EDRD/EDSP-08
- Course  
Prerequisite,  
Description,  
Title, Syllabi  
Changes, and  
Other Catalog  
Revisions
- EDRD 697. Practicum: Diagnostic and Remedial Techniques in *Reading to Practicum: Diagnosis and Intervention in Literacy*
- 1 07-EDRD-08
- Program  
Revision and  
Other Catalog  
Revision
- Program Revision with new title *Literacy Education* (from Reading) and other revisions to address changes in professional standards
- 1 08-EDRD-08

## SCHOOL OF TEACHER EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP

- Course  
Prerequisite,  
Description,  
Title, Syllabi  
Change
- EDSP 622. Collaboration in Schools and Community for Special Populations to *Collaboration to Teach and Support Diverse Learners*
- 1 02-EDSP-08
- EDSP 651. Current Trends in Programs and Services for Exceptional Individuals to *Students with Diverse Learning Needs and the Special Education Process*
- 2 04-EDSP-08
- Course  
Prerequisite,  
Description,  
Syllabi Change
- EDSP 670. Proactive Classroom Management and Advanced Positive Behavior Support
- 1 05-EDSP-08

	Course Description, Title, Syllabi Change	EDSP 672. Introduction to High Incidence Disabilities to <i>Characteristics of Learners with Disabilities Who Access the General Education Curriculum K-12</i>
1	06-EDSP-08	
	New Course Proposal	EDSP 675. Teaching Students with Exceptional Learning Needs in the Elementary General Curriculum
1	07-EDSP-08	
	Course Prerequisite, Description, Title, Syllabi Change	EDSP 676. Teaching Exceptional Learners in the General Curriculum to <i>Teaching Students with Exceptional Learning Needs in the Secondary General Curriculum</i>
1	08-EDSP-08	
2	10-EDSP-08	EDSP 791:792: Teaching Internship in High Incidence Disabilities (EBD/LD/MR)
	Course Prerequisite, Description, Syllabi Change	EDUC 615. Principles of Curriculum Development
1	02-EDUC-08	

Council members suggested that recognition be extended to members of the Academic Course and Program Review subcommittee, Gerald Gordon, Matthew Brunner, Jim Werth, Elizabeth Altieri, Bill Flora, Douglas Mitchell, Nora Reilly (serving on behalf of Dennis Grady), and Recorder, Sandra Steele for the unprecedented number of proposals for 2008-09. Due to the number of proposals being submitted this year proposals requiring correction will be returned to the department for correction prior to being included on the agenda, and as a result of any corrections made by the subcommittee. Graduate College curriculum/ program change forms have been revised to allow easier navigation as a result of document conversions (Word 2003 and 2007). See [http://gradcollege.asp.radford.edu/faculty.html#FACULTY\\_FORMS](http://gradcollege.asp.radford.edu/faculty.html#FACULTY_FORMS). Another change to streamline the process will include email notification of proposal approval to college deans, department chairs and contacts listed on the proposal cover sheet. Proposal status for 2008-09 is updated regularly throughout the year in an Academic Course and Program Review Annual Report (see <http://gradcollege.asp.radford.edu/faculty.html>).

An additional Academic Course and Program Review subcommittee meeting was scheduled for Friday, January 16, 2009 at 1 pm in Peters Hall Conference Room A041.

**Graduate Student Council (GSC)** – No report.

### 3. DISCUSSION

**Strategic Plan** - No meeting. At the next Council of Dean's meeting Dr. Grady will establish a timeline for submission of strategic plans. An initial meeting will be scheduled during Spring semester.

**Overload Policy** – The graduate college Overload Policy was discussed. Currently graduate students wishing to take over 14 credit hours during a semester (full-time) or 7 credit hours (summer session) must submit an Overload Form. Recently there was a problem with departments enrolling students in classes over 14 credit hours without graduate college knowledge. This has been corrected to block enrollment without completion of the overload form. Peer universities were benchmarked and it was found that 12 credit hours is the standard, with some universities denying requests beyond 15 credit hours, while others had no limit.

**Grades +/-** - In follow-up to the November meeting several reports examining the pros and cons of plus/minus grading were emailed to Graduate Affairs Council prior to the meeting. Dr. Grady summarized the information obtained. 75% of peer institutions polled (40 of 53) have a plus/minus grading system. Impact to the GPA and other pros and cons were included in the information presented. There were some marginal effects on the GPA but overall most faculty and students presented a favorable impression of a plus/minus grading system.

Discussion followed. Some programs did not want to use minus grading. It was noted that only 2 of the 40 schools examined do not use minus grading. Suggestions included consideration of uniformity with undergraduate and graduate programs, development of a common policy for grade ranges in a plus/minus grading system, and questions regarding student opinions regarding the change. Dr Grady observed that instructors could decide to use plus/minus grading or not, that each instructor could establish his/her own grading scale just as one can now, that minus grading provided a greater range of performance discrimination than without minus grading, and that the GAC has no involvement with undergraduate programs and how they are graded.

It was determined that there was not enough feedback from departments/programs to establish a position. A recommendation was made to table the discussion pending receipt and review of more information. Council members were asked to obtain feedback from students and faculty and be prepared to vote at the next meeting. Dr. Grady will draft a written motion on the principle of initiating a plus/minus grading system.

**4. OTHER**

There was a question whether tuition waivers are still a consideration for next year. An announcement regarding state budget cuts is expected from the Governor next week. More information will be presented at the January meeting.

**5. ADJOURN**

The next scheduled meeting is Friday, January 23, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. in Hurlburt 248.

Agenda items will include discussions regarding graduate faculty application standards, and a strategic plan. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m.

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**Recommendations from Graduate Faculty Sub-Committee  
 Graduate Affairs Council Meeting  
 Friday, December 12, 2008**

<b>Graduate Faculty Status</b>		
<b>Adjunct Graduate Faculty Status</b>		
Joseph Klein	Counselor Education	Clinically focused classes only.
Angela DeVore	STEL – Special Education	EDSP 560
Sarah Gillenwater	STEL – Education	EDUC 506, 640.
<b>Graduate Faculty Associate</b>		

**Graduate Faculty Applications Not Requiring Sub-Committee Review  
 (Approved Since Last Graduate Affairs Council Meeting)**

<b>Graduate Faculty Status</b>		
<b>Adjunct Graduate Faculty Status</b>		
Michael Marion	Counselor Education	
<b>Graduate Faculty Associate</b>		