



## FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

### University Graduate and Professional Council Executive Summary 2008-2009

<b>Members:</b>	AH-MSN	Marietta Bell-Scriber	OPT	
	AS	Olukemi Fadayomi	PH	Renee Koski
	BUS-ISM	Doug Blakemore	TECH	Jeff Hardesty
	EHS-CJ	Nancy Hogan, Chair	L/C	David Scott
	EHS-ED	Nancy Lashaway-Bokina	AL	Lon Green
	BUS-MBA	Anita Fagerman	AL	Ali Abbasabadi
			UC	

I would call this year a year of thought transition. Pending from the 2007-2008 school year was the approval of the graduate assistant policy. New interim Vice President Dan Burcham approved a section of the policy which states:

“GA’s will be considered equivalent to adult part-time status entitling them to faculty/staff parking passes, the ability to obtain appropriate access to keys, security levels, office space, phone, computer/hardware as deemed necessary by the unit”.

Mr. Don Flickinger, Assistant Vice-President, met with the Council and requested that instead of such a narrow policy, that we expand it to meet future needs. Since this type of thinking is a complete reversal of thought, the Council began reviewing other universities policies to ensure an expanded policy met the existing standard. Issues that need to be included are: pay levels for master’s/doctorate students, teaching v. research assistants, tuition waivers, other types of compensation, part-time v. full time, etc.

It was expected at the beginning of this academic year that the Council would be gathering and submitting graduate materials to meet criteria 4 for the upcoming visit by the Higher Learning Commission. This did not occur. The UGPC was never asked to participate despite repeated contacts with members of the Ferris Task Force.

In March, The UGPC was informed by Don Flickinger that a task force was working on an Ed.D in Community College Leadership. There is an external advisory board made up of either current or former Community College Administrators and an internal task force made up of various Ferris entities. Surprisingly, to this Council, no one was asked to serve on the task force representing graduate policy. Don asked us to think ‘outside the box’ with this proposal as it is not a traditional program. The delivery will be primarily online with 1 credit modules to equal a 3 credit course to ensure flexibility. The degree will focus on both business and education issues, fundraising , workforce training and development, etc. The Ed.D. was to be in the College of Education and Human Services, but College of Business is being considered.

In April, the UGPC met with Associate Vice President Roberta Teahen to further discuss the Ed.D. Several changes are being considered. First, the degree placement is now being considered in the College of Professional and Technical Studies and the timeline to begin currently is Summer, 2010. The

curriculum is being developed. The process involves curriculum review by the UCC and then all the paperwork needs to be reviewed by the HLC in order to begin next summer. Dr. Teahen asked the UGPC to review the curriculum this summer. Several concerns were voiced. First, the Council does not meet in the summer and most members may be unavailable without advanced notice. Second, this seems out of the procedural norm. It was suggested providing a stipend to Council members to meet this summer. Dr. Teahen thought this was appropriate, but this option was turned down by the administration. As the time of this report, it is not known if the UGPC will read the curriculum this summer.

The UGPC is extremely concerned about policy formation to handle doctoral education. We must lay down a solid foundation to ensure that doctoral education has the guidance necessary to meet national standards and maintain the highest program integrity. Further concerns have been expressed over funding resources in such a constrained budget era, structural issues, union issues, etc.

The Council reviewed several graduate changes. These reviews included—Curricular Changes to Pharmacy Degree to meet certification requirements—approved with concern voiced over how it will affect the MBA/PharmD. Program; Criminal Justice Administration-Crim 597-Independent Study—approved; MSN-Development of a New Accelerated Nursing Track—idea supported by Council—MSN to submit next fall.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Hogan, Ph.D.