

2-7-2007

Graduate Council Meeting : 2007 : 02 : 07

Graduate Council

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Graduate Council, "Graduate Council Meeting : 2007 : 02 : 07" (2007). *USFSP Faculty Senate Committee: Graduate Council: Meetings*.
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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA ST. PETERSBURG

Graduate Council

Wednesday February 7, 2007, 2:30 PM

COB Conference Room

Present: Tom Ainscough, Tom Carter, Chris D'Elia, Deni Elliott, Donna Knudsen, Steve Lang, Deanna Michael, Kaya Townsend

Guests: James Fellows, Ryan Langan

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:35.
2. The minutes from our November 16, 2006 meeting were approved.
3. James Fellows and Ryan Langan of the COB presented the proposal for changes in the MBA admission standards. After the presentation and several questions from committee members, a motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal. A short discussion showed that the Council agreed with the COB presenters that the old admission standards were too restrictive and that new standards allowing students with high GMAT scores into the program would be a useful change. The motion passed unanimously.
4. We discussed the quorum rules of the Council. Currently, a quorum is 3/4 of the voting members, which means that we need all but one of our members to get a quorum. We discussed lowering the quorum to 2/3 or to a majority. We also considered changing the rules regarding proxy voting and email voting. In the end, a motion was made and seconded to lower the quorum to a majority. This motion passed unanimously. So, where our current rules say, "All meeting require a quorum, which shall consist of 3/4th of the members of the Council," our motion substitutes "a majority" for "3/4th." This needs to be approved by the Faculty Council to become effective.
5. Deanna Michaels noted that we may not have a sufficiently explicit policy for suspending or deleting graduate programs. It is important therefore to modify our policies and procedures. The sense of the group is that suspensions and deletions should be treated the same way our policies and procedures treat "major changes." Donna Knudsen noted that whatever we write up needs to deal with degrees and concentrations, not programs and tracks. In the end, we decided that Tom Carter would come up with wording to modify our current policies and procedures, run it by Donna Knudsen to make sure it makes sense (and to correct his inevitable mistakes), and make it available to members before we meet again.
6. We adjourned at 3:00.