
USF St. Petersburg Faculty Senate Committee:
Graduate Council: Meetings

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Graduate and Undergraduate Council

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Graduate Council Meeting : 2010 : 04 : 15

Graduate Council

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**USF ST. PETERSBURG
GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, April 15, 2010**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Michael Sampson (COE) at 10:30 a.m. in COQ 201

Attending were: Jerry Lander (COB), Michael Sampson (COE), Donna Knudsen (Graduate Studies), Deni Elliott (CAS) Bonnie Braun (COE), Monica Postelnicu Ancu (CAS)

Regrets: Wei Guan (COB) Sabbatical, Jim Schnur (LIB)

Guests: George Roy (COE), Deana Michael (COE), and Chris Meindle (ESP)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 18TH MEETING

After review, the Council accepted the minutes as presented for March 18, 2010 on a unanimous voice vote. Jerry will submit these minutes for placement on the webpage to Donna Knudsen, Director of Graduate Studies and to Brianne Reck, President of the Faculty Senate.

NEW BUSINESS

Program and Course Revisions

George Roy (COE) presented a Proposal for a Certification in Middle Grades Digitally-Enhanced Mathematics Education (MG DEME).

After considerable discussion, the proposal summarized below was passed by the Graduate Council by a unanimous vote. Please see attachment for the detailed proposal.

Justification. In response to Superintendent Julie Janssen's recent statement that Pinellas County doesn't need more math teachers at this time—what it needs are *better* math teachers—USFSP is preparing a graduate-level certificate program to offer advanced pedagogy training for middle grades math teachers. This 5-course program—MG DEME—will prepare teachers to teach the *SunBay Digital Math Curriculum* that USFSP is supporting in conjunction with PCSB and SRI International. The certificate comprises five courses, three in mathematics and two in pedagogy. The three mathematics courses form the foundation of higher mathematics in grades 9-12 and beyond: 1) algebraic thinking, 2) geometry and measurement, and 3) the processes of mathematics and data analysis. These courses will integrate *SimCalc* and *Geometer's Sketchpad* software, including *Tinkerplots*, and other digital curricula. The courses are designed to provide middle school mathematics teachers with technological pedagogical content knowledge based on digital enhancements that includes graphing calculators and the latest in presentation software to deepen the mathematical learning of their students.

Using a digital curriculum based on extensive evidence of effectiveness to teach middle grades mathematics supports several critical educational needs, including

- Student success in middle grades mathematics, directly correlated with future success in the advanced math required for access to college and success in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM);
- Sustainable implementation using curriculum, technology and teacher professional development;
- Conceptual understanding of teaching and learning mathematics ;
- Technological knowledge based on digital enhancements to deepen mathematical learning; and increased teacher effectiveness

MG DEME will also include a mathematics methods course for middle grades teachers that emphasizes pedagogical content knowledge appropriate for teaching a digital curriculum. Reading in the Content Area is the fifth course in the certificate. The need for this course comes from comments by participants in the pilot implementation of *SunBay Digital Mathematics* during 2009-2010 that difficulty reading the content interfered with the learning of mathematics of many middle grades students.

Further rationale. Background research by the USFSP team indicates that in the 2009-2010 pilot year of implementing the *SunBay Digital Mathematics program*, only 3 of 13 teachers had standard diplomas in mathematics or mathematics education. It's projected, therefore, that many of the Pinellas County middle grades mathematics teachers have come through alternative certification programs, with the likelihood that their exposure to teaching and learning mathematics comes mainly from the teachers' own high school and college mathematics courses. It is also unlikely that the middle grades mathematics teachers have learned the necessary pedagogical content knowledge in mathematics appropriate for today's middle school students as recommended by such seminal publications as NCTM's *Principles and Standards for School Mathematics* (2000) and *Curriculum Focal Points* (2006). Consequently, this program is designed to start off the five-course sequence with a good methods course that lays the foundation for such learning, followed by courses in important mathematics that model the pedagogy learned earlier.

The 15-credit hour certificate is predicted to be a popular one with middle grades math teachers in Pinellas County as it will allow them to teach the SunBay Digital Math materials, and it will also move teachers up the salary scale. For any teacher seeking to pursue a master's degree program 4 of the 5 courses from the certificate program are transferable.

- MAE 6356 (3 credit hours)--Teaching of Pre-Secondary School Mathematics
- RED 6544 (3 credit hours)--Cognition, Comprehension, and Content-Area Reading
- MAE 6327 (3 credit hours)--Teaching Technology-Enhanced Algebra in the Middle Grades
- MAE 6337 (3 credit hours)--Teaching Technology-Enhanced Geometry in the Middle Grades
- MAE 6824 (3 credit hours)-- Technology-Enhanced Numerical Analysis in the Middle Grades

Proposed catalog copy. Middle Grades Digitally-Enhanced Mathematics Education (MG DEME) is a 15-credit hour certificate program to prepare practicing middle grades math teachers to teach a technology-rich mathematics curriculum. The program is open to all middle grades teachers but is particularly suited for teachers from Pinellas County where the *SunBay Digital Math Curriculum* is being implemented. The program consists of five courses—a methods course, a reading in the content area course, and courses in algebraic thinking, geometry/measurement, and the processes of mathematics and data analysis. The program will be cohort based, with participants beginning the program one summer, continuing the program during the academic year, and completing the program the following summer.

Proposed Faculty:

Dr. George Roy

Dr. Andy Reeves (adjunct)

Dr. Cynthia Leung or Dr. Janice Blake

Courses do not apply to other graduate certificates.

EDF 5125 Child Development

Deanna Michael discussed the fact that the USF Tampa deleted EDF 6125 Child Development, a four credit hour course. This is a required core course in the COESP program. The COESP has proposed to bring this course back as a three hour course, EDF 5125 Child Development. The USFSP Graduate Council voted unanimously to support the reactivation of the course as EDF 5125 Child Development, a three hour course.

Report from Curriculum Management Committee

Michael Sampson reported that we need to have a two year course rotation plan that will ultimately be extended to a six year course rotation plan. Deanna Michaels stated that courses that have not been offered in the past three years will have to be approved by the Graduated Council Committee again. There is a push to get programs to look at undergraduate programs, critical assignments and outcomes assessments.

Program Review

Chris Meindle from Environmental Sciences and Policy (ESP) presented an overview of the ESP Graduate Program.

There are currently 35 students in the program. Three students have graduated from the program.

Students should have a 3.0 out of 4.0 undergraduate GPA for admission. In addition, they should have a 1000 GRE score. However, there is flexibility in these requirements. Some of the key questions asked are the number of science courses the student has had and whether they have had a statistics course.

All students have to do a thesis. Graduates of the program are either terminal or go on to a Ph.D. program.

Students have to take a comprehensive examination. A non-thesis option has been proposed, but no action has been taken.

There is going to be an external review of the program in the early fall 2010.

Elementary Education/ESOL Dual Track Program

Deanna Michael discussed the Elementary Education/ESOL Dual Track Masters Program. The program is designed for individuals who want to become an Elementary Teacher (grades K-6) and have a bachelor's degree in a field outside of education. Completion of the entire program (coursework and internships) leads to initial certification in Elementary Education with ESOL endorsement and a Master of Arts (M.A.) degree in Elementary Education.

The program is a 63 credit hour Masters Program. It is a non-thesis program. The students have to do a project which is often based on research papers they have done throughout their program. One of the four Pinellas County "Teachers of the Year" in 2009 was a graduate of the program. The Department of Education views the program as a model program.

OLD BUSINESS

Graduate Studies Open House

Donna Knudsen announced that the first "Graduate Studies Open House" held Saturday, April 10th was very successful. She thanked members of the Graduate Council for their promotion of it and those who were able to attend.

Next Meeting

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for August 2010 or early in the fall semester 2010. Michael Sampson, Chair will appropriately notify committee members.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Lander