



Item: AS 5

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

October 24, 2007

SUBJECT: Approval to Establish a Graduate College at Florida Atlantic University

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

Recommend approval of the FAU Graduate College

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Florida Atlantic University has a long and proud tradition of providing excellent graduate education programs at the Master's, Specialist, and Doctoral degree levels. The number of graduate programs has grown and prospered over the past 43 years such that the university now offers 71 Master's, 3 Specialist, and 19 Doctoral degrees.

Based on recommendations in the last two accreditation reports by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, FAU embarked on a path to create a Graduate Faculty to establish standards for those teaching graduate courses and to serve in supervisory capacities for graduate student thesis and dissertation research projects. In September 2005, 630 faculty members comprised the first FAU Graduate Faculty. In March 2006, the University Faculty Senate approved the amendment to their Constitution to create a Graduate Council with a charge to review and recommend university wide graduate policies and procedures. The Due Process Committee was approved at the same meeting with a charge to review the graduate petitions processes of the colleges offering graduate programs and to ensure that each college has a procedure affording graduate students due process for student appeals.

FAU's potential to grow as a major research university is inextricably linked to its ability to attract and retain outstanding graduate students. The future of FAU depends upon a strong and vibrant graduate community, with

For the aforementioned reasons it is proposed that Florida Atlantic University establish a Graduate College.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE

The FAU Graduate College will be established upon approval by the FAU Board of Trustees.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

All of the existing functions and staff positions in the Office of Graduate Admissions and Graduate Studies would remain the same, so there would be no new resource allocations necessary to implement this request.

Establishing a Graduate College at Florida Atlantic University

Florida Atlantic University has a long and proud tradition of providing excellent graduate education programs at the Master's, Specialist, and Doctoral degree levels. The number of graduate programs has grown and prospered over the past 43 years such that the university now offers 71 Master's, 3 Specialist, and 19 Doctoral degrees. The administration of the various graduate programs has evolved in such a way that the Office of Graduate Studies now functions as a graduate college by defining and supporting excellence in graduate education and the scholarly activities that are associated with it.

As recently as the mid-1990's, campus-level administration for both the graduate programs and the research office was directed by a single administrator, with Dr. John Jurewicz serving as Dean of Graduate Studies and Research. In 1999, graduate admissions split from undergraduate admissions to become a separate entity. Dr. Nathan Dean, who was at that time Vice Provost, became the Interim Dean for Graduate Admissions and Graduate Studies. In 2001, the administration of the graduate programs again became a part of the Division of Research and Graduate Studies when Dr. Larry Lemanski became the Vice President of Research and Dean of Graduate Studies. In 2005, the Provost appointed Dr. Gary Perry to serve as the Interim Dean of Graduate Studies and changed the administrative structure to allow the Vice President of Research to devote his full attention to the research mission of the university. Dr. Leslie Terry served as Interim Dean of Graduate Studies from July 2006 until Dr. Barry Rosson became the Dean of Graduate Studies in July 2007.

Based on recommendations in the last two accreditation reports by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, FAU embarked on a path to create a Graduate Faculty. It was recognized in the reports that a Graduate Faculty was needed to establish standards for those teaching graduate courses and to serve in supervisory capacities for graduate student thesis and

~~at Dr. Larry Perry to~~ ~~interim~~ ~~in the~~

more must be done to increase graduate assistantship stipends. Based on 2005-2006 assistantship stipend data collected from peer institutions, there is a great disparity between FAU's stipend levels and those offered at the peer institutions. FAU must find ways to increase the stipends in all of its colleges, except perhaps the Barry Kaye College of Business and the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing. The need is especially critical in the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, and the College of Education.

FAU College	College Stipend Average as a Percentage of Peer Institution's Stipend Average
Architecture, Urban and Public Affairs	82 %
Arts and Letters	61 %
Business	105 %
Education	57 %
Engineering and Computer Science	77 %
Nursing	98 %
Science	79 %

Over the past five years, the number of graduate students receiving degrees has increased by approximately 15%. The most dramatic increase has occurred in an area in which the university can be most proud; the number of students receiving doctoral degrees has almost doubled from 44 to 83 in this relatively short time period. This rise has occurred during an unprecedented time of increased external research funding, and it is anticipated that as funded research continues to increase, so will the number of doctoral students continue to rise.

Degree	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	Degree Total
---------------	----------------	----------------	----------------	----------------	----------------	---------------------

