## Graduate Admissions Committee

Annual Reports 2000-2001

DATE: September 6, 2001
TO: Executive Committee, Faculty Senate
FROM: Maggie Niess, Chair (2000-01), Graduate Admissions Committee
SUBJECT: 2000-2001 Annual Report for the Graduate Admissions Committee

The Graduate Admissions Committee reviews files of Graduate School applicants who do not meet the minimum admission requirements. In the case of domestic applicants, the requirement is a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 in the last 90 quarter hours or 60 semester hours of the first undergraduate degree. For international students a similar GPA requirement applies plus either a TOEFL score of 550 (213 on the computer version of the test) or a degree completed at an accredited institution that offers all course work in English. The committee considers other predictors of success in graduate programs including standardized test scores, letters of recommendation, and academic performance or work experience since the applicant earned a bachelor's degree. In evaluating such materials the Committee looks for substantive and compelling evidence indicating that the applicant will succeed at the graduate level to justify waiving the admission requirements. The Graduate Admissions Committee operates under the Standing Rules of the Faculty Senate and under the policies and procedures formulated by the Graduate Council.

During the period 30 June 2000 through 28 June 2001, the Committee met 27 times on essentially an every-other-week basis (see attached copy of the Committee's annual audit prepared by the Office of Admissions and Orientation). The GAC considered 171 cases. Of these 131 were domestic and 40 international. Ninety one (53%) were admitted with no conditions, 18 (10%) were admitted with department provisions, 37 (22%) were admitted with conditions, 5 (3%) were rejected, and 20 (12%) were deferred. The primary reason for the increased number of deferrals was a request to have the department establish acceptable provisions for consideration for admission.

During this year, the committee changed the categories for action: A (accept), P (accept with department provision), C (accept with condition, standard unless otherwise specified), D (defer for more information), R (reject). The department provision (P) action was added to clarify the expectation that the department monitor the progress of a student given specific provisions (identified by the department AND approved by the GAC) with the acceptance of the student. If students are rejected, they may still complete 24 hours of upper division or graduate work, earning a 3.0 or better to be accepted if the department approves the acceptance. Students who use this avenue are not reconsidered by the GAC unless they wish to petition based on less than 24 hours of completed work.

In addition to this routine activity, Maggie Niess served as a non-voting member of the Graduate Council. During the year, she submitted issues of concern to the Graduate Council for their consideration and action.

1. Graduate applicants with narrative transcripts (e.g., transcripts from Evergreen) automatically are categorized with an Advanced Notice of Rejection requiring department support and that members of the Graduate Admissions Committee must assess the quality of the transcript. The Committee requested a change in this procedure to require that the applicant department attest, in writing, to the quality of the transcript. The Graduate Council approved this request.

2. The standard condition has been that the student must obtain a cumulative grade of 3.25 in the first 18 credits of graded coursework. The GAC recommended that this condition be changed to a 3.0 (B) or better in each course of the first 18 hours of graded graduate credits. The Graduate Council approved this request.

cc: Michele Sandlin, Admission

Dr. Sally Francis, Interim Dean, Graduate School



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