This purpose of this Graduate Committee meeting was for Treise to discuss the combined degree program with department chairs.

A combined degree means getting both undergraduate and Master’s degrees in five years.

Undergraduates may take up to 4 graduate classes that will count toward both degrees.

Chairs will need to approve the courses on the combined degree form.

From the UF Undergraduate Catalog 2017-18: *Application normally occurs in the junior or senior year. If accepted, students must take the GRE the first semester of their senior year. Financial aid is available for the graduate portion of the program. Undergraduate degree costs should be satisfied with existing financial aid such as Bright Futures and Prepaid Tuition. Bright Futures can cover the undergraduate costs of up to 12 hours of graduate courses that apply to the undergraduate degree. Each student is responsible for the difference in tuition between the undergraduate and graduate course rates. If available, the Florida Prepaid Tuition Program can fund the first 120 hours. Graduate courses that apply toward the undergraduate degree are funded at the undergraduate rate, and the student is responsible for the difference.*

Treise listed the following advantages to students:

* take a course once, count it twice
* get a Master’s in one year
* 12 to 15 hours of credit toward graduate
* can list on resume

Advantages to chairs:

* reduces enrollment in overcrowded undergrad
* Weigold found in his research that students with the combined degree had better job outcomes

The group discussed approaching undergrads during their late sophomore/early junior year—at the 60-75 hour point to be able to complete in five years.

Students would apply to MA and take the GRE when course work is completed (other programs have no requirement to take it earlier; but certainly could be encouraged.

It was suggested that an essay be required for admission into the combined degree program and included with the application form.

Promotion of the combined degrees:

* Website—ask Randy to promote all combined degrees
* Engagement day in fall semester
* Listserv

Treise asked the chairs to review the list of approved professional electives for their departments and get back to her. Spiker suggested not including courses that are made up of undergrads and grads—Environmental JM and Sports, Media, and Society—because it wouldn’t be a true graduate experience.

Approved professional electives by department: (chairs reviewed at the meeting)

Advertising Management: ADV, JM, TC

PR Management: PR, JM, TC

Advertising Creative Strategy and Research: ADV, JM, TC

Innovation and Entrepreneurship: ADV, PR, JM, TC

MC and Society: ADV, PR, JM, TC

Digital Storytelling: (in Pro Ma) PR, JM, TC

Communication in Healthcare: ADV, PR, JM, TC

Communication Leadership: ADV, PR, JM, TC

Theory: JM, TC

Applied Theory: (in Pro MA) JM, TC

Research: JM, TC

International Communication: ADV, PR, JM, TC (except Media and Society track, need World Communication Systems instead)

Data Visualization: (in Pro MA) ADV, PR, JM, TC

eHealth: ADV, PR, JM, TC

Content Marketing: ADV, PR, JM, TC

Video for the Web: ADV, PR, JM, TC

Race, Sports, and Culture: ADV, PR, JM, TC

ATTENDED: Treise, DiStaso, Kelleher, Ostroff, Spiker, and Hedge