

MEMORANDUM

To: Deans and Graduate Program Directors

From: George E. Walker, *George E. Walker* Vice President for Research and Dean of the University Graduate School

Date: September 5, 2008

Re: Proposed Changes to Graduate Admissions Deadlines and Conditional Admissions to Graduate Programs

Graduate Admissions Deadlines

Several weeks ago, I asked Associate Dean Jonathan Tubman to send all Deans and Associate Deans an email proposing changes in graduate admissions deadlines by requiring units with graduate programs to observe current, published deadlines for graduate admissions (i.e., June 1 for fall admissions; October 1 for spring admissions; and, March 1 for summer admissions). Although most selective research universities enforce admissions deadlines such as these, in the past, FIU generally has not. The proposed change in enforcement of graduate admissions deadlines is generally in line with our efforts to focus more on quality of students and the services provided to them.

While several informally expressed support for consistent enforcement of graduate admissions deadlines, a couple of you expressed some concerns about your unit's ability to meet the more rigid enforcement immediately. Therefore, while the rationale for, and importance of, moving toward more systematic and transparent graduate admissions and enrollment processes remains the same, a phased implementation strategy is proposed. Specifically, UGS proposes a three-semester phase-in period. For Spring 2009, graduate admissions will end on December 1, 2008, 60 days after the published deadline. For Summer 2009, graduate admissions will end on April 1, 2009, 30 days after the published deadline. For Fall 2009, graduate admissions will end on July 1, 2009, 30 days after the published deadline. For Spring 2010, graduate admissions will end on October 1, 2009, i.e., the published deadline. Thereafter, exceptions to published admissions deadlines will be very rare.

Conditional Admissions of Graduate Students

With regard to conditional admissions to graduate programs, during the summer of 2008 UGS ended the practice of allowing two-term conditional (i.e., Condition-2) admissions to doctoral programs. This type of conditional admission is used when students do not meet the published admissions requirements of a program. As we move forward, UGS will begin a multi-year process of decreasing the numbers of conditional (Condition-2) admissions to master's-level programs from a university limit of 10% to a university limit of less than 5% conditional admissions. The proposed gradual reduction in the number of conditional (Condition-2) admissions will allow units sufficient time to adjust their recruitment strategies to engage and recruit applicants who can be admitted fully into graduate programs. This plan is consistent with our efforts to raise substantially the quality of our admitted graduate students over time.