January 29, 2016

PRESENT: Jim Adams, Tim Barnett, Heather Blackwell (for Christina Hillesheim), Lori Bruce, , Russell Carr, Tim Chamblee, Lara Dodds, Deborah Eakin, Steve Elder, Dana Franz, Richard Harkess, Priscilla Hill, Rebecca Long, Beth Miller, David Morse, Lynn Reinschmiedt, Dan Reynolds, Peter Ryan, Scott Roberts, Keith Walters, Bob Wolverton (for Francis Coleman)

ABSENT: Amy Adkerson, Julia Hodges, Ashli Brown-Johnson, Allison Pearson, Jon Rezek, David Shaw, Kirk Swortzel

GUESTS AND REGULAR ATTENDERS PRESENT: Charles Freeman, Michael Gann, Kathy Griffin, Kathleen Sherman-Morris, John Rodgers, Chris Rousseau, Pam Sullivan

I. The January 29, 2016, meeting of the Graduate Council of Mississippi State University was called to order by Chair Lara Dodds at 1:30 PM, in Room 611 of Allen Hall

II. Dodds asked for a motion to approve October 30, 2015, minutes. Motion to approve by Dan Reynolds, seconded by Beth Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Report from the Graduate School: Dr. Lori Bruce, Dean
Dr. Bruce referred to her report, Graduate Enrollment Management – January 2016 Update, which had been distributed and said she will discuss it later in the meeting.

IV. Report from the Graduate Student Association: Heather Blackwell for Christina Hillesheim
   • No report

V. Old Business:
   Geospatial and Remote Sensing Minor – John Rodgers
Dr. John Rodgers was present to answer questions. Chair Dodds stated that this proposal was considered last year by Graduate Council and it converts a certificate to a minor. There were two questions brought forward during the previous meeting: (1) regarding the name of the minor and whether or not it fits within Graduate School policy, (2) how the minor professor would be identified. Dodds asked for a motion to bring to the table for discussion. Motion made by David Morse, seconded by Jim Adams. John Rodgers discussed and gave an overview of the proposal. Rodgers stated that after meeting with departments involved, as well as, Dr. Peter Ryan in the Provost Office, it was decided the individual departments would elect who their graduate minor professor would be. The minor professor would then be in charge of overseeing and validating to ensure the student demonstrated the competency in that field. Regarding the name of the minor, Dr. Ryan stated that its name is an exception to the policy. Dodds stated that there are questions on how an exception is allowed. Dr. Bruce said that in this case it is a logical to approve the name as a minor since it was already established as a certificate name along with the fact that it is interdisciplinary. After discussion, Dodds asked if Council was in favor of approving; proposal was approved unanimously.

VI. Report from University Committee on Courses and Curricula, UCCC: Dana Franz
1. Modification of MS in Geosciences – Kathleen Sherman-Morris
   Dr. Kathy Sherman-Morris was present to answer questions. Dodds asked for a motion to bring the modification to the table for discussion. A motion made by Dana Franz, seconded
by David Morse. Sherman-Morris stated that the department wanted to “clean up” the program description by making the following changes:

- Alphabetized concentrations;
- Added language that a student in a non-thesis concentration may petition to write a thesis;
- Added language following the Graduate School guidelines regarding 8000-level classes;
- Removed information about using DVDs in their distance classes and about offering a GIS certificate;
- Added a description of the Environmental Geosciences concentration and some information about prerequisites;
- Changed the wording of “additional 8000-level coursework” to “additional graduate-level coursework;”
- Made the Environmental Geosciences concentration non-thesis, added online, changed the requirements and added additional course options; added language that a student must complete a capstone research project and a written and oral exam;
- Removed classes from the Broadcast Meteorology, Professional Meteorology and Teachers in Geosciences concentrations; and
- Clarified the Teachers in Geosciences capstone requirements.

After discussion and no noted changes, Dodds asked Council if they were in favor of approving the program modification; the proposal was approved unanimously.

2. Addition of MS in Fashion Design and Merchandising – Dana Franz and Dr. Charles Freeman

Franz moved to bring the addition of MS in Fashion Design and Merchandising to the table for discussion; Dodds asked for a second; seconded by David Morse. Franz and Dr. Charles Freeman discussed the addition. A graduate program in FDM will generate additional students to the university. The highly successful undergraduate program is at the point where adding a graduate degree will expand the university’s reputation by producing high-level teaching and research by faculty with the help of graduate students. Dr. Ryan questioned how the indicated price tag of $1 million was decided (page 3 of Appendix 7). Dr. Bruce recommended the program be approved contingent on a revision of the cost and implementation portion to indicate that current resources will be used. Dodds asked Council if they were in favor of approving the addition of the MS in Fashion Design and Merchandising contingent on the revision discussed. Motion carried unanimously. Dr. Ryan said he would be happy to work with Dr. Freeman on the revision.

3. Motion to rescind Master of Arts in Teaching-Secondary modification – Dana Franz

Franz moved this matter be brought to the table; Dodds asked for a second; seconded by David Morse. At its November 2015 meeting, UCCC approved an oral motion to rescind the MAT-S modification approved last year. Subsequently, the request was entered on a modification approval form which was included in the Council meeting materials. Franz stated the department is asking to revert to the previous program because of unanticipated consequences regarding the teaching internship portion and its cost to the department. Additionally, there is a licensure issue. She pointed out that the new courses (EDS 8153 and EDS 8113) approved with the previous modification will be retained. Dodds asked Council if they were in favor of approving the proposal. The motion carried unanimously.
4. Modification of MS in Elementary Education – Dana Franz

Franz moved to bring the modification of the MS in Elementary Education to the table for discussion; Dodds asked for a second; seconded by David Morse. Franz stated that the department wants the program to become more competitive and proposes reducing the number of credit hours from 36 to 33 by requiring one less elective. Additionally, more required courses will be offered through Campus 5 since their students are teachers and more likely to be on campus during the summer to take face-to-face courses. There was a discussion regarding the definitions of a distance student and the method of delivery which Franz clarified. She stated that the student will make the decision to take face-to-face or via distance. Dodds asked Council if they were in favor of approving the modification MS in Elementary Education. Motion carried unanimously.

VII. New Business:

Accelerated BS/MS Program in Poultry Science – Dana Franz

Dodds asked for a motion to bring to the table for discussion. Motion made by Dana Franz, seconded by David Morse. After discussion concerning when an undergraduate student can apply for the program, Dodds asked Council for a motion to approve the program contingent on the correction of the 60 vs 90 hours contradiction. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Dissertation submission deadlines – Dr. Bruce

Dr. Bruce discussed a proposal to change the deadlines for dissertation submission described below. She stated that she thought it would be a good idea to put forward the idea and requested to have a subcommittee formed to investigate the various options.

**Current Process/Policy**

There are three dates:

- Date 1 - the student meets all deadlines, graduates that semester;
- Date 2 - the student meets the deadline to graduate the next semester and does not have to enroll the next semester;
- Date 3 – the student meets the deadline to graduate the next semester and has to register for one credit hour the next semester.

**Proposed Concept**

Potentially have two dates:

- Date 1 – the student meets all deadlines, graduates that semester;
- Date 2 – the student meets a deadline to graduate the next semester and registers for a one-time, zero-credit course the next semester (the course would have a flat fee like a co-op for example, they have CP 2103 $25.00).

This has the benefits of being simpler (or potentially being simpler), cost savings to the student, and allows the university to have enrollment counts of all students who’ve not gone through commencement.

**OR**

Potentially have two dates:

- Date 1 – the student meets all deadlines, graduates that semester;
- Date 2 – the student meets a deadline to graduate the next semester and registers for a one-credit hour of XXX the next semester (dissertation hour or other non-graded hour with full tuition).

Dodds asked for volunteers; the subcommittee will consist of: Tim Barnett, Debra Eakin, David Morse, and Dan Reynolds.
2. Graduate Enrollment Management – January 2016 Update – Dr. Bruce
   Dr. Bruce announced that the Graduate School website has been redesigned. She then discussed her report on graduate enrollment trends at MSU and how the Office of the Graduate School is tracking and responding to them. She stated that the OGS has begun to purchase names of individuals who have taken the GRE in targeted majors within a specific timeframe and in certain geographical locations. The OGS works with the targeted major departments to reach out to these applicants who receive regular recruitment emails from the Graduate School. The OGS is able to track the number of potential applicants who open the emails, the length of time the email is open, and if the recipients click on the links provided to the Graduate School website and to the departmental website. This tracking provides valuable recruiting information.

VIII. There being no further business, Dodds asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn made by Russell Carr, seconded Dan Reynolds. Meeting adjourned at 3:21 PM.