May 5, 2016

PRESENT: Tim Barnett, Heather Blackwell (for Christina Hillesheim), Russell Carr, Tim Chamblee, Lara Dodds, Dana Franz, Richard Harkess, Priscilla Hill, Beth Miller, David Morse, Lynn Reinschmiedt, Dan Reynolds, Scott Roberts, Kirk Swortzel, Bob Wolverton (for Frances Coleman)

ABSENT: Amy Adkerson, Ashli Brown-Johnson, Lori Bruce, Deborah Eakin, Steve Elder, Julia Hodges, Rebecca Long, Allison Pearson, Peter Ryan, David Shaw, Keith Walters

GUESTS AND REGULAR ATTENDERS PRESENT: Kathy Griffin, Chris Rousseau, Pam Sullivan

I. The May 5, 2016, meeting of the Graduate Council of Mississippi State University was called to order by Chair Lara Dodds at 1:33 PM in Room 611 of Allen Hall.

II. Dodds asked for a motion to approve the April 8, 2016, minutes. Motion to approve made by David Morse, seconded by Beth Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Report from University Committee on Courses and Curricula, UCCC: Kirk Swortzel

• Graduate Minor in Business Analytics – Swortzel stated that this proposal is a graduate minor in Business Analytics for master’s students. It requires students to complete 9 graduate credit hours, comprised of 6 required graduate hours and 3 elective graduate credit hours. Dodds asked Council if they were in favor of accepting the graduate minor in Business Analytics. Motion was made by Dana Franz, seconded by Dan Reynolds. Motion passed.

• Modification of PhD in Mechanical Engineering – Swortzel stated this modification will formalize course hour requirements, clarifying test scores, GPA, direct admit going from a bachelor’s to a PhD, including limiting Directed Individual Study hours and including a requirement of two semesters of Graduate Seminar (ME 8011). It also clarifies aspects of program policy such as the appeals process for academic dismissal. A course hour requirement has been added to replace the existing course hour recommendation, and a mathematics course requirement has been added. Dodds asked Council if they were in favor of accepting the modification of PhD in Mechanical Engineering. Motion was made by Dana Franz, seconded by Dan Reynolds. Motion passed.

• Modification of MS in Mechanical Engineering – As with the PhD in Mechanical Engineering, this modification of the MS in Mechanical Engineering will formalize course hour requirements, including limiting Directed Individual Study hours and including a requirement of one semester of Graduate Seminar (ME 8011). It also clarifies aspects of program policy such as the appeals process for academic dismissal. Dodds asked Council if they were in favor of accepting the modification of the MS in Mechanical Engineering. Motion was made by Dana Franz, seconded by Dan Reynolds. Motion passed.
• **Program Proposal: Graduate Certificate PSS/ABE Certificate in Precision Agriculture** - Swortzel discussed the graduate certificate PSS/ABE Certificate in Precision Agriculture and stated there is a need to train students in the broad array of precision agriculture technologies. This certificate program complements the MSU PSS/ABE crop production and Ag Engineering majors, research and other majors taught across College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) departments. This certificate features emerging technologies in decision-based agricultural planning and implementation. The certificate requires a minimum of 16 hours with at least 10 credit hours specific to Precision Agriculture coursework and six additional hours of electives or optional courses. PSS/ABE 2543 may be required as a leveling course and graduates may need a combination of Option 1 (focuses on GIS course) and Option 3 (focuses on crop production, soils, etc.) to meet graduate credit requirements. Dodds asked Council if they were in favor of accepting and moving the certificate proposal forward. Motion was made by Dana Franz, seconded by Dan Reynolds. Motion passed.

**IV. Report from sub-committee on Thesis Submission formatting guidelines: Dana Franz**

- Franz stated the sub-committee is in the study phase but has no report. Franz asked Council to send her any concerns or specific issues with dissertation or thesis format. The committee will be meeting in the next few weeks and will begin to make their initial report.

**V. Report from the Graduate School: Dr. Lori Bruce, Dean**

- No report.

**VI. Report from the Graduate Student Association: Heather Blackwell for Christina Hillesheim**

- Heather Blackwell reported the GSA had a great year and they are currently transitioning to the new officers.

**VII.** There being no further business, Dodds asked for a motion to adjourn. A big thank you was given to Dan Reynolds for providing ice cream. Motion to adjourn made by Russell Carr, seconded David Morse. Meeting adjourned at 1:50 PM.