November 22, 2013

PRESENT: Cynthia Hill (for Amy Adkerson), Ashli-Brown-Johnson, Lori Bruce, Russell Carr, Tim Chamblee, PC Cinnella, Karen Coats, Frances Coleman, Lara Dodds, Steve Elder, Dana Franz, Julia Hodges, Beth Miller (for David Lewis), David Morse, Dan Reynolds, Scott Roberts, Peter Ryan, Judy Schneider, Kirk Swortzel, Vemitra White

ABSENT: Tommy Anderson (excused), Jerry Gilbert (excused), Jon Rezek, David Shaw, Juan Silva (excused)

GUESTS: Kari Babski-Reeves, Kathy Sherman-Morris, Adam Love, Mitchell Berman, Kevin Armstrong

The November 22, 2013, meeting of the Graduate Council was called to order by Vice Chair Roberts, in the absence of Chair Silva, at 1:30 P.M.

The November 1, 2013, minutes (October meeting) were approved following a motion by Morse and second by Carr.

Report from University Committee on Courses and Curricula (UCCC): Swortzel, UCCC Chair Swortzel brought to Council a number of graduate degree proposals approved by UCCC.

- Master of Science in Geosciences with concentrations in Broadcast Meteorology, Professional Meteorology/Climatology, Teachers in Geosciences, and Applied Meteorology—modification
  Kathy Sherman-Morris from the Department of Geoscience was present and spoke to the modification which:
  1. adds three courses: GR 8410, GR 8453, and GR 8843. GR 8410 and GR 8453 are being required by the Teachers in Geosciences (TIG) and Applied Meteorology (AMP) concentrations respectively;
  2. formalizes requirements for the TIG and AMP concentrations and clarifies (but does not change) credit hours for all concentrations in the descriptions.
  Following discussion, Dodds moved to approve the modification, Carr seconded, and the degree modification was unanimously approved.

- Master of Science in Food Science, Nutrition and Health Promotion—modification
  The proposal modifies requirements for the Health Promotion concentration. In the past, HP students have conducted a research project as a DIS or Special Topics course. This modification adds a new course, FNH 8673 Applied Projects for Certified Health Specialists, to formally teach this class and direct students in research that addresses a health issue in their community. No changes are being made to either the Food Science or Nutrition concentrations.
  Following discussion regarding language clarification, Council voted unanimously to approve the proposal following a motion by Franz and second by Carr.

- Doctor of Philosophy in Kinesiology—new program
  Adam Love was present and discussed the proposal to add a Ph.D. in Kinesiology with concentrations in Exercise Science and Sport Studies. The faculty proposes this research-focused program designed to produce independent scholars capable of enhancing the knowledge base in the two concentrations. The faculty is confident they can support this degree by using graduate teaching assistants to teach undergraduate courses, thus not requiring new faculty members. Following discussion, Franz moved approval of the proposal and Carr seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Psychology—modification
  Dr. Mitchell Berman, department head, and Dr. Kevin Armstrong were present to speak to the modification. The modification adds two concentrations, Clinical (CLIN) and Applied Cognitive Science (ACSC). The ASCS concentration is identical to the current PhD degree except for a request to reinstate
PSY 8653 Applied Cognitive Reading Seminar, a course previously dropped due to inactivity. The Clinical concentration has courses in common with the ACSC concentration, plus two courses offered by Counseling and Educational Psychology and two new courses required for accreditation and licensure. Following discussion about the required courses in each concentration, Barnett moved approval of the program modification and Morse seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- Master of Science in Industrial Engineering—modification
  Kari Babski-Reeves, graduate coordinator of Industrial and Systems Engineering, was present and explained that the modification adds five concentrations to the current program: Human Factors & Ergonomics, Industrial Systems, Management Systems, Manufacturing Systems, & Operations Research. The current program is currently both a Campus 1 and Campus 5 program, and this proposal modifies the program for both campuses. Questions were asked about the requirements of the Industrial Systems concentration; Babski-Reeves confirmed that the concentration does not require a core course. Council members felt the description of required MA, ST, and supporting area courses should stipulate “graduate-level” in each reference. Steve Elder moved approval of the modification with the specified changes and Dan Reynolds seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Veterinary Medical Science—modifications
  The master’s degree modification adds five concentrations: Population Medicine Non-Thesis (PMNT), Veterinary Medical Research (VMRC), Computational Biology (VCBC), Infectious Diseases (VIDC), and Toxicology (VTOX). The doctoral program modification adds three concentrations: Veterinary Medical Research (VNRC), Computational Biology (VCBC), and Infectious Diseases (VIDC). The rationale is that the concentrations will allow a clear distinction between the research and non-research options offered. Carr stated that a letter from Computational Biology was required when the proposals were initially introduced. That letter and a biocomputational course have been added to both proposals, and editorial changes were made. Members noted a typo in the VCBC Concentration of the master’s proposal; the number of hours in the left-hand column for approved graduate hours should be 11. Dana Franz moved approval of both proposals with the correction of the noted error, and Steve Elder seconded. The proposals were approved unanimously.

Graduate Dean’s Report: Lori Bruce, Dean
Bruce updated Council on several issues.

- Her involvement with a group organized by President Keenum, Strategic Enrollment Management Team has helped her understand what the University does in regard to recruiting students and what it does not. The group looks holistically at all groups across campus. The University uses a client-relationship management package to communicate with undergraduate applicants or possible applicants and mass emails personalized to targeted groups. This process is not used for graduate students, but it would be a valuable tool enabling the University to better reach and communicate with possible graduate students as clients.

- The president asked Bruce for a graduate enrollment goal. She told Council members that setting a goal is difficult when departments are recruiting based on their own funding, needs, and resources. She has recently surveyed departments about their realistic goals for the future of their graduate programs. Responses will aid the University to understand the investment required to reach these goals. She is also surveying current graduate students about how they were recruited to MSU. These processes are still in the data-gathering stage.

- An external group is currently assessing the efficiency of the graduate admissions process from the Six Sigma perspective.

- 3MT—The Three Minute Thesis competition was held earlier this month. There were 38 applicants with eight finalists. The winner was an Educational Specialist student from the College of Education. The second-place winner was a Ph.D. student from Veterinary Medicine, and the People’s Choice award went
to a Ph.D. student from Bagley College of Engineering. 3MT was a great success, and the Graduate School plans to continue its participation in this national competition.

Discussion followed her report regarding recruiting and issues that impact recruiting. Ryan said that the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is reviewing all their graduate programs with regard to CIP codes, saying that changes should positively influence their recruitment of graduate students by allowing students in STEM-area programs to stay longer in the US and work in Optional Practical Training (OPT). Members had questions about how best to deal with the vetting of international applicants; Bruce said that Caroline Hearnberger, Immigration Coordinator in the Office of International Education, is the best contact. Other issues included the number of applicants, marketing, and selectivity in admissions.

Graduate Student Association (GSA): Vemitra White, President
White reported that the GSA has participated with other groups in several activities, including Habitat for Humanity, a chili cook-off, and a Thanksgiving meal. The last meeting was held the previous week and attended by approximately 40 students. They have scheduled the Spring Graduate Symposium for March 22, 2014, in McCool Hall and are in the process of recruiting judges. The next GSA meeting will take place on January 23, 2014.

Old Business:
Roberts recognized Morse, chair of the MS/PhD requirement committee, who distributed a report the committee compiled after surveying other SEC institutions’ master’s and doctoral requirements. The master’s requirements are consistent, but Ph.D. requirements vary widely. The report shows that MSU is the only school with no minimum Ph.D. requirements, but the point was made that MSU does require a minimum of 20 dissertation hours. Discussion followed but no action was taken. Morse said that the report is the first part of a two-phase process, and the committee will focus next on MSU programs, especially at the doctoral level.

Certificate Committee
Roberts reported that the certificate committee is still completing its work.

There was no new business for consideration, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:03 PM. The next meeting will take place on January 31, 2014, at 1:30 PM in Allen 611.