Graduate Council

Number: 5
Date: December 10, 2004


1. Dr. Tom Hosie called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. in 611 Allen Hall.

   Dr. Hosie asked Council members to review the November 19, 2004, minutes. Dr. John Boyle made the motion to accept the minutes with the following changes:

   Page 2, Item E, 2nd Paragraph: The Council formed a sub-committee of Dr. Wise, Dr. Boyle, Dr. Hosie, and Dr. Lora Ballweber to develop a proposal for a Graduate Excellence Fellowship Program.

   Page 4, 4th Paragraph, New Business: Delete: Dr. Ronald Taylor stated he had served on the initial committee that drafted the current Graduate Faculty Policy.

   Page 3, 2nd Paragraph, New Business: Dr. Lora Ballweber suggested the Council approve an adjunct appointment to be major professor of a committee on a case-by-case basis.

   Dr. Dwayne Wise made the motion to accept the minutes as amended; Dr. Lynn Reinschmiedt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. Report from the University Committee on Courses and Curricula (UCCC).

   The College of Agriculture and Life Science (CALS) proposes to consolidate existing master’s programs under three umbrella degree programs to reflect changes that occurred in the C.I.P. areas in 2000.

   **Modification of Master of Science in Animal Physiology**
   The Master of Science in Agricultural Life Sciences will be an umbrella master’s program for departments in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The concentration areas available to students in this degree program will be Animal Physiology, Biochemistry, Entomology, and Genetics.

   **Modification of Master of Science in Foods, Nutrition, and Health Promotion**
   The Master of Science in Foods, Nutrition, and Health Promotion will be an umbrella master’s program for departments in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The concentration areas available to students in this degree program will be Human Nutrition, Health Promotion, and Food Science.

   **Modification of Master of Science in Agriculture**
The Master of Science in Agriculture will be an umbrella master’s program for departments in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The concentration areas available to students in this degree program will be Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Pest Management, Agronomy, Animal Nutrition, Animal Science, Food Science, Horticulture, Plant Pathology, Poultry Science, and Weed Science.

Dr. Boyle served as spokesperson for the CALS proposed program modification. He stated that IHL Board of Trustees has monitored master’s programs in agriculture for sometime; many master’s programs in CALS have experienced low student enrollment and number of graduates per year. Some programs are currently on three-year probation and as of February 2005 these programs will be cancelled. In an effort to save the master’s programs in CALS, the programs have been collapsed into three umbrella programs according to the current C.I.P. classification codes, which changed in 2000. The programs will fall under three C.I.P. numbers: Life Science; Agriculture; and Food Science Nutrition and Health Promotion. The modification avoids the need for Board approval; instead, CALS will have Board acknowledgement. The college committee is asking that the existing programs be suspended rather than eliminated so that at a future date the programs could be reinstated, which would require Board approval.

The modifications will reflect current C.I.P areas. Dr. Reindschmiedt stated this is similar to what the College of Engineering did ten years ago with many of their Ph.D. programs. CALS is also working its on Ph.D. programs. Individual departments of the existing degree programs will operate as concentrations under the umbrella programs. Dr. Boyle stated that each concentration is responsible for its own set of guidelines and graduation requirements. Discussion followed. Dr. Wise inquired about outside certification, would this renaming have an effect? Dr. Sylvia Byrd stated that the program is accredited at the undergraduate level, but not the graduate level, by the American Dietetic Association Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education, which will not affect the master’s program. Dr. Reinschmiedt stated that these issues have been reviewed. Dr. Hosie made the motion to accept the three program modifications as proposed; Dr. Wise seconded the motion. Motion carried.


Dr. William Person submitted the following report to the Council:

a. The scheduled meeting of the Teaching Assistant Advisory Council was cancelled for the fall semester and will be rescheduled for March 2005.

b. The National Science Foundation (NSF) has refunded the Alliance for Graduate Education in Mississippi (AGEM) collaborative project with Mississippi State University, University of Mississippi, Jackson State University, University of Mississippi Medical Center, and the University of Southern Mississippi for another five-year period. The objective of AGEM is to increase the enrollment, retention, and graduation of underrepresented doctoral students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).
c. The 2005 AGEM Winter Symposium will be held at the Jackson State University e-Center on Raymond Road, January 20-22, 2005. For more information, please contact Molly Herring in the Office of Graduate Studies.

Dr. Barbara Spencer announced she would participate in the commencement ceremony and lead in the doctoral students, Friday, December 10 and Saturday, December 11, 2004. Dr. Boyle agreed to lead in the doctoral students during the Friday, December 10, 2004, ceremony.

Dr. Boyle asked if Dr. Scanes had reached a decision about Graduate Admissions. Ms. Rita Burrell stated space is still an issue. Dr. Jonathan Pote stated that the decision is very close but not finalized. The space issue is almost completed. Dr. Person and Dr. Pote are still working on the final plan.

4. Report from the Graduate Student Association

a. Ms. Lakiesha Claude, President of the Graduate Student Association, presented the report. The GSA is in the planning stages of the Research Symposium for the spring semester, as well as the GSA Awards Banquet. The next GSA meeting will be held January 19, 2005.

5. New Business

a. MSU Graduate Excellence Fellowship Program. Dr. Hosie asked the Council to review the proposal. Dr. Boyle gave the committee report stating Dr. Colin Scanes would like to promote excellence in graduate studies and devise a plan to increase the number of graduates with limited funding. The committee proposes to increase selective stipends to at least $25,000 per year, compared to NSF stipends, which are $30,000 per year. The committee proposes that the Office of Research provide twelve matches of $12,500 each on stipends of equal or greater amounts for Ph.D. students. The University would provide the tuition waiver for each student, and the stipend would be for a twelve-month period. Each fellowship would be renewable for up to three years total, given appropriate progress by the student.

After the initial three-year period, this proposed fellowship would produce twelve stipends of at least $25,000 per year for three years. The program would be cycled in so that the first year would produce four stipends costing the Office of Research a total of $50,000; the second year would introduce four more for a total of $100,000; the third year would result in an additional four stipends for a total of $150,000. After three years, the first group of four students would have completed either their degrees or have their support taken over by their individual programs. The next group of four students would cycle in and the program continues at a cost of $150,000 per year until the need for a stipend increase appears.

Ph.D. programs would be responsible for recruiting students and proposing them for this award. This would probably require early identification and an early decision by the students involved. A selection committee would choose students from a submitted pool. If any student declines the award, the committee would select the next candidate. If no candidate is deemed acceptable, the money would not be used for that year.
Proposed Budget

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<th>Year</th>
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Dr. Jerry Gilbert inquired what minimum qualifications the committee would accept from the applicants. Dr. Boyle stated the selection committee would decide the qualifications. Dr. Gilbert stated that one requirement should be that the students submit GRE, GMAT, or other national test scores required as baseline information on which to base admission decisions. Discussion followed regarding formation of the selection committee, student requirements, department requirements, and funding sources.

Dr. Scanes expressed his appreciation to the committee for an innovative idea and will consider the proposal. Dr. Wise suggested the University attain a donor who would like his/her name attached to the fellowship, as well as fund the fellowship program. Dr. Hosie made the motion to send the proposal forward to Dr. Scanes, as a medium for consideration, stating the proposal could be modified. Dr. Boyle seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Motion carried.

Dr. Scanes asked the committee about the timing for the implementation of the graduate fellowship program. Dr. Boyle stated that it would be realistic for the fall 2005 semester. Dr. Scanes asked that the selection committee be in place by the end of the spring 2005 semester. Dr. Wise stated there are a number of List Serves where this information could be posted at no charge. Dr. Scanes asked that this issue be brought back to the January or February 2005 Graduate Council agenda.

Dr. Hosie made the motion to adjourn; Dr. Spencer seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.