Graduate Council
Mississippi State University

Number:  6
Date:  January 28, 2005


Guest:  Tracy Arwood

1. Dr. Tom Hosie called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in 611 Allen Hall.

2. On motion by Dr. Lynn Reinschmiedt and second by Dr. Lou D’Abramo, minutes for December 10, 2004, were approved as distributed.

3. Dr. Reinschmiedt requested that the issue of adjunct membership on the Graduate Faculty, which had been tabled at the November 19, 2004 meeting, be placed on the agenda for the February 25, 2005 meeting.

4. At the request of Dr. Colin Scanes, Ms. Tracy Arwood, Office of Regulatory Compliance, spoke on ethics in research. Dr. Scanes is interested in the teaching of research ethics and the responsible conduct of research in classes, especially at the graduate level.

   In 2000, the Office of Research Integrity at the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) put out requirements about teaching responsible conduct of research. Although these requirements have been put on hold, the university needs to begin to move forward assessing current practices and developing needs to expose graduate students to ethics of research. There are nine core areas under consideration: collaborative science, conflicts of interests and commitment, data acquisition management sharing and ownership, human subjects, lab animals welfare, mentor trainee responsibility, peer review, publication practices, and research misconduct. DHHS has funded the Council of Graduate Schools ($150,000 --$15,000 to ten schools to develop and test interventions along the nine topic areas) and asked them to work with institutions to come up with some best practices.

   Dr. Hosie noted we would get back with Ms. Arwood.

   Dr. Hosie suggested a first step could be to ask for the Graduate Coordinators help in an initial solicitation. Dr. Person noted they can let us know what is available.

   Discussion followed.

   Dr. William Person and Dr. Hosie will develop a survey to evaluate current activity (courses, seminars, etc.)

5. University Committee on Courses and Curricula (UCCC)

   No report.

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

a. He, along with Ms. Rita Burrell, received an invitation to attend the Institute of International Education December 13-15, 2004, in New York City, to observe the screening process of applicants in the various Fulbright programs. Mississippi State University entered into an agreement August 2004 to increase our graduate student applications for participation in the Fulbright Fellowship and related programs.

b. A total of 270 graduate students completed their degree programs in December 2004. This number included 40 Doctoral Degrees, 18 Educational Specialist Degrees, and 218 Master’s Degrees. Our doctoral numbers are back on track for this academic year with 28 in August and 40 in December for a total of 68.

c. As of January 28, 2005, there are 903 GAs for Spring 2005: 286 GTAs, 509 GRAs, and 108 GSAs.

d. Approximately 375 individuals attended the AGEM Winter Symposium 2005 hosted by Jackson State University on January 20 – 22, 2005. Some of our AGEM scholars, including our GSA president, were recognized for their research in the poster presentation competition. Next year, the University of Southern Mississippi will host the symposium.

e. Two of our graduate students, Mr. Erich Bergiel, GSA Vice President and doctoral student in business administration, and Ms. LaTonya Hardin, master’s student in business administration, will participate in the annual Conference of Southern Graduate Schools (CSGS) meeting in Biloxi on February 25-28, 2005.

f. Dr. Hosie asked if a decision had been reached about Graduate Admissions. Dr. Person stated we are in the process of making minor revisions to the Plan of Operations. Dr. Person noted the space has been identified.

g. Dr. Larry Barrow asked how many Fulbright scholars have come to Mississippi State University. Ms. Rita Burrell stated 2 scholars are currently attending Mississippi State University.

7. Report from Graduate Student Association

Ms. Lakiesha Claude, President of the Graduate Student Association, presented the following report to the Council:

a. The GSA is in the planning stages of the Research Symposium. A “Call for Abstracts” email was sent to all graduate students with a February 11, 2005, deadline for submitting abstracts. The Research Symposium was originally scheduled for April 1, 2005, but has been rescheduled for April 8, 2005. The deadline for submitting abstracts has been changed to February 25, 2005.

b. The GSA Banquet has been scheduled for April 20, 2005.

c. The last meeting was on January 19, 2005. During this meeting, graduate students were able to voice concerns. The next meeting will be on February 9, 2005, at 5:30 in McCool.

8. Old Business

a. MSU Graduate Excellence Program. Dr. Hosie opened the floor for ideas on how to develop the selection committee for the Graduate Excellence Fellowship Program. Dr. Hosie posed the following questions: Who should be a member of the committee? What criteria should be set for the selection process? Dr. Hosie stated that at the December 10, 2004, Graduate Council meeting it was discussed that at least one representative from each college would serve on the committee.
Dr. Hosie stated Dr. Scanes would like for the committee to be in place by the end of the Spring 2005 semester.

Discussion followed.

Dr. Barbara Spencer stated the Council needs more clarification from Dr. Scanes on the development of this committee, as well as criteria for student applications.


Dr. Hosie stated he discussed the Graduate Academic Dishonesty policy with the Associate Deans, Associate Provost, Ms. Ruth Prescott, and Mr. Mike White, and they agreed this is a very complicated policy. Dr. Hosie met with Ms. Prescott and Mr. White. Dr. Hosie stated one issue with the policy is who is to have the ultimate decision -- to whom do you make the last appeal. Dr. Hosie stated it appears we can satisfy all our needs by combining the undergraduate and graduate policies. Ms. Prescott and Mr. White were concerned about having two different boards---current academic honesty board and a graduate academic honesty board. They thought it would be better to have a board that would meet both needs.

Dr. Hosie stated a probable process was outlined. We would have to sit down with an undergraduate committee to put the two policies together. Our policy essentially was a mimic of the undergraduate policy. Dr. Hosie stated a lot of text was taken out of the undergraduate policy and has been replaced with a set of boxes.

The committee has proposed that for a 1st offense a graduate student can be dismissed, unlike the undergraduate who will receive an F in the course. For graduate students, the first offense may include suspension and expulsion. There will be a set of boxes in the policy: one set would pertain to undergraduates and one to graduates. In all cases, if a student does not accept the outcome from an instructor, the appeal would automatically go to the Academic Honesty Committee. It would not stream through the college. An instructor could recommend expulsion. Dr. Hosie stated two streams were discovered: an instructor determining a penalty and then the program also looking at the situation and coming up with further penalties as not being appropriate. One group could not keep an additional penalty created by another. This wasn’t seen as viable. One item was to include revocation of degree; you can revoke a degree after it has been given.

Dr. Hosie stated he would like to meet with the committee and Mr. White again to put the policy together. There would be graduate representation on the committee.

Discussion followed.

Dr. Hosie stated the current policy does include Graduate Studies; it just doesn’t apply very well. Our policy must become an OP before it takes effect.

Dr. Barbara Spencer moved that the proposed policy that was developed by the Council’s subcommittee be sent back to the subcommittee.

9. New Business

a. College of Education request for change in the Graduate Bulletin.

Dr. Hosie noted that a change is requested relative to the structure of the Educational Specialist Committee. There is a discrepancy between information in the Graduate Bulletin and the College of Education’s Graduate Student Handbook. Dr. Hosie noted this was a policy when there were
eight or nine departments in the college and there are only five now. Programs previously in the
nine departments have been consolidated into the five departments; therefore, the policy is
restrictive.

The academic department heads and the graduate coordinators of the College of Education
recommend the following change to the Graduate Bulletin:

“Graduate Committee – The graduate committee for the specialist degree will be composed of at
least three members. Two of the members of the committee will represent the department or the
area of the program emphasis. One member must be from a department other than the department
in which the area of program emphasis is located. The latter member may be from another
department within the College of Education or from a department outside the College of
Education, depending upon the supporting area(s) selected.”

Dr. Reinschmiedt asked if the Graduate Council had to approve these types of changes. Dr. Hosie
noted he was unsure about approval. Dr. Person noted this is a change in policy for the educational
specialist program and thinks it would require Council approval.

Dr. Reinschmiedt moved we accept the recommendation.; motion was seconded by Dr. Larry
Barrow. All in favor with no abstentions.

b. ESL Proposal

Per Dr. Person, Molly Watkins sent OGS a memorandum asking if we could possibly make
adjustments in the ESL program. The ESL Center has a course that would/could satisfy the
requirements for EN 1103 which, in the original policy, was taught in the English Department.
The course is titled ESL 5323 Academic Research and Writing. A draft proposal was submitted
to the Council to change the ESL requirements with those items that are underlined on the last
three pages to be put into an updated policy for administering this program. All references to EN
1103 have been removed and replaced with ESL 5323. In November 2004, Dr. Person visited
with Dr. Rich Raymond, Head of the English Department, to request his support of the proposed
modification. Dr. Raymond conferred with his faculty and sent an e-mail message to support the
proposed modification.

On motion by Dr. Reinschmiedt and second by Dr. Larry Hanson, the motion carried with no
abstentions.

Dr. Larry Barrow noted he received an email from a graduate applicant that is having trouble
with the Admissions website with paying their application fee.
Rita noted she would contact Susan Bradley and ask her to follow up.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.