Graduate Council

Number: 5
Date: January 30, 2004


Special Guests: Kay DeMarsche (Art Dept.), Patrick Miller (Art Dept.), Peter Rabideau (Provost)

1. Dr. Tom Hosie, Chair of the Graduate Council, called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. in Room 611 Allen.

2. Dr. Peter Rabideau, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs was invited to speak to the Council.

Dr. Rabideau gave a brief summary of his graduate program experience. Discussion followed regarding the structure of centralization versus decentralization of graduate school i.e., departments not following protocol. Dr. Rabideau favors MSU’s current structure with a director of graduate programs and departments.

Discussion followed regarding Dr. Hosie’s question on stipend/graduate assistantship funds/tuition waiver.

Dr. Rabideau referred to a memorandum from the IHL regarding low enrollment programs (LEP), as well as graduate programs that fall outside the mission of a land-grant institution.

Dr. Hosie thanked the Provost for his remarks and suggestions.

3. On a motion by Dr. John Boyle and second by Dr. Dwayne Wise, the Council approved the November 21, 2003, minutes with corrections. (Page 2, Item 6, deletion of the following line appearing before Item 7: Discussion followed and the issue sent back to subcommittee for additional work.)

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

Dr. Kay DeMarsche, Department Head and Patrick Miller, Associate Professor from the Department of Art, appeared before the Council to address questions and concerns regarding proposed modifications in the Master of Fine Arts Degree in Electronic Visualization – The Department of Art wishes to establish a Graphic Design “track” in the existing Master of Fine Arts Program (MFA) in Electronic Visualization. The current program has two “tracks:” Multimedia and Animation. Courses for these two areas are listed under Courses: (Studio Emphasis). Many graphic design courses are currently listed under Studio Electives offered in the Department of Art. In order to add a Graphic Design
track in the MFA program, the department proposes to list the Graphic Design courses under the category of Courses: (Studio Emphasis), along with the other emphasis courses.

Dr. Wise questioned how the degree would be awarded. Dr. DeMarsche noted there would be two emphases in Graphic Design, animation and multimedia. Dr. Boyle inquired about the need of a faculty member to absorb the new course load. The department is currently interviewing for the new faculty position. Dr. Hosie complimented Dr. DeMarsche on having a comprehensive justification statement. Discussion followed on how students will choose courses to include in the new program. The department is currently working on curriculum development for animation/multimedia. Dr. Wise drew attention to page two of the proposal regarding provisional admission, stating the university has in place a provisional admission policy. Dr. Miller addressed the question, responding that the provisional student would be an undergraduate transitioning into graduate status or students who have deficiencies and/or immaturity in certain areas. Graduate advisors will review the student’s work and history and advise the student of his/her responsibility when entering the program. Dr. Wise suggested the department use “contingent” admission instead of provisional. Dr. Hosie called for motion for approval with revision of the Graphic Design track. Dr. Boyle made the motion for approval; Dr. Chinling Wang seconded the motion to accept the Master of Fine Arts Degree in Electronic Visualization modification with the additional change of the term “provisional” on page two to “contingent.” There was no further discussion.

5. Report from Graduate Studies.

a. Dr. William A. Person reported that there were over 300 participants at the AGEM Winter Scholar Symposium held at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, MS, January 22 – 24, 2004. There were 39 undergraduate students and 10 graduate students from Mississippi State University. He also announced that Dr. Wise was recognized during the symposium for his outstanding contribution to graduate education at MSU.

b. The revised proposal to the National Institutes of Health on Initiative for Minority Student Development (IMSD) will be submitted January 30, 2004. Dr. Wise will serve as co-principal investigator of the program. If awarded, this will be a four-year program beginning October 1, 2004. MSU is requesting $1.5 million dollars to provide a summer research program for undergraduate students interested in biomedical research, as well as doctoral fellowships for students who are interested in careers in biomedical research. The disciplines involved are chemistry, biological sciences, biochemistry and molecular biology, and biomedical engineering.

c. Dr. Person reported an increase of 38 new graduate students for the spring semester on all MSU campuses. MSU has a total enrollment of 326 new graduate students for spring 2004; for spring 2003, the total number enrolled was 288. On the main campus, MSU has 257 new graduate students for spring 2004; the total number for spring 2003 was 265.

d. The Graduate Coordinators’ meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 3, 2004 in Simrall Auditorium from 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
e. Ms. Sherry Jobe reported that there are 933 graduate assistants as of January 30, 2004.

f. Ms. Rita Burrell reported 267 students completed program requirements for their graduate degree in December 2003: Masters degree – 231; Educational Specialist degree – 3; and, Doctoral degree - 33. The 33 doctoral graduates bring MSU to 52 doctoral graduates; we will need 48 graduates in the spring to achieve 100 doctoral students for academic year 2003-2004.

g. Recruitment Assistance Grants have been awarded in six of the eight colleges for a total of $7,750. The average award was $500.

Dr. Hosie inquired on the status of Cathy Sides. Dr. Person reported that she is making progress, is in good spirits, and is ready to return to work, but is awaiting her doctor’s approval.

6. Report from Graduate Student Association

a. Dr. Person gave the report for the Graduate Student Association. There has been a resignation of the Treasurer, and Josh Herring, Vice-President, will make an interim appointment. The GSA Research Symposium has been scheduled for April 1, 2004, in the Union Ballroom. Abstracts are due February 13, 2004. Information has been sent to every graduate student on campus via a mass e-mail. The categories will be: Best Oral Presentation and Best Poster Presentation.

b. Next meeting of GSA will be February 10, 2004, at 5:00 p.m. in 11 Allen Hall.

7. Academic Review Board Committee Representative and Alternate. Dr. Hosie distributed the memo from Dr. Jerry Gilbert, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, outlining the duties of the ARB. The current representative is Dr. Tor Schulz, with Dr. Richard Harkess as alternate; their terms will expire in 2004. The new representatives will serve a two-year term, which will expire in 2006. Dr. Hosie will contact Dr. Schulz regarding his willingness to serve an additional two years. Dr. Hosie requested the Council submit recommendations to him on or before February 27, 2004.

8. Old Business

Dr. Hosie called on Dr. Boyle to give an update on the subcommittee reviewing quality education issues. Dr. Boyle reported that the committee has met twice and has discussed several related policy issues and will be prepared to report to the Council February 27, 2004.

Dr. Boyle reported on his presentation given to the Academic Deans Council regarding Academic Graduate Misconduct Policy. The Dean of Students is concerned with the student records. The issue is ongoing and Dr. Boyle anticipates another meeting with Dean Mike White and Dr. Wise and Dr. Hosie.

Dr. Hosie announced the New Sexual Harassment Policy dated January 16, 2004, has been adopted by the University concerning students, faculty, and staff. It appears to be a
consolidation of three sets of policies. Please visit the [www.msstate.edu/dept/gcounsel](http://www.msstate.edu/dept/gcounsel), choose related links/ MSU Policies and Procedures to become familiar with the new policy.

Dr. Hosie asked the Council if there was any interest into looking into the tuition fellowships. Discussion followed between Council members. Dr. Hosie will look into this issue.

9. New Business

Dr. Wise initiated a discussion with the Council regarding provisional admission. He provided a current example and proposed the formula be reworked to include GRE scores. Discussion followed regarding recruitment, financial support, GRE scores versus GPA, chain of command regarding admission exceptions, as well as, criteria for admission into a graduate program.

Dr. Hare asked about the modification of graduate bulletin. It was noted that this issue would be discussed at the next meeting. He also presented an issue of dual admission of graduate students - specifically, the proper procedures to deal with courses required for one program but not acceptable for inclusion in the second program.

Dr. Boyle made the motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.