GRADUATE COUNCIL
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

NUMBER: 5 (Revised Minutes)

DATE: February 11, 2000


ABSENT: R. Altenkirch, R. Jenkins.

Dr. John Boyle welcomed everyone as he called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in 611 Allen Hall.

The following documents were given to the Graduate Council members in attendance at the meeting: February 11, 2000 Agenda, October 22, 1999 (revised) minutes, November 19, 1999 minutes, Doctoral Degree Graduation Applicants and Recipients statistics; Grad Advantage print out; Policy Review of Unclassified Status letter.

Minutes
A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to adopt the revised October minutes and the November minutes.

Report from Graduate Studies

Self-Managed Applications
Grad Advantage Online Application

The discussion centered on the Grad Advantage Online application process. It was noted, however, that all three of the above methods need to interface with each other. The application will be placed on the Office of Graduate Studies web site. The cost to the student will be $37.00 and can be paid only by credit card to Peterson’s. Out of the $37.00, $12.00 will go to Peterson’s and $25.00 comes to MSU for the application fee. There are corrections that need to be made throughout the proposed application document. Suggestions were made about changes that are needed in order to make this application more understandable and user-friendly. Aside from the typographical errors, there are areas that need special attention: Instructions on cost and who to pay need to be included on front page; pull downs need to be inserted to limit the variations of some of the information given by the student; grade point averages need to be listed.

Allen Ulmer in ITS is working with Todd Fisher of Peterson’s on changes and improvements.
**Enrollment**

Dr. Person presented a comparison from the Spring 1999 and Spring 2000 semesters of graduate student enrollment as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Enrollment</th>
<th>New Admission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Campus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2000</td>
<td>2840</td>
<td>342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 1999</td>
<td>2732</td>
<td>349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>108 (3.95%) increase)</td>
<td>-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Campus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2000</td>
<td>2598</td>
<td>302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 1999</td>
<td>2382</td>
<td>285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>216 (9.1%) increase)</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Subcommittee**

Dr. Person announced that a Graduate Council subcommittee has been formed to study the dismissal appeal of a doctoral student. Dr. Sam Miller, Dr. Lesia Crumpton-Young, and Dr. Alex Friend make up this subcommittee. This subcommittee has already met, and we expect to have the findings soon.

Dr. Person and Dale Welch have looked into the increasing number of dismissals for the spring 2000 semester. The number of dismissals as of today is 15. There are a large number of international dismissals for the spring semester.

**Doctoral Degree Graduate Applicants**

It appears that MSU will have no problem in maintaining our SREB Doctoral Level I status for this academic year. Twenty-three more students are needed for the May graduation to reach 100 doctoral degrees awarded for the year.

Graduate Bulletin information updates need to be turned in to Cathy Sides by March 1, 2000. You can reach her at 325-7400, mail stop: 9703, or cathy@grad.msstate.edu.

**Report from Graduate Student Association**

President of the GSA, Matthew Burnham, presented flyers for the next GSA meeting and gave a report on the GSA meeting that was held on January 25, 2000. There were more than 50 students in attendance on January 25, 2000.

The GSA awards travel grants up to $100.00 each to five graduate students per semester. This helps the student with expenses when traveling to seminars and meetings. Elections are forthcoming for new offices of the
GSA, which will be discussed at the next meeting on February 22, 2000.

The GSA Spring Awards Banquet is scheduled for March 24, 2000: RA and TA awards will be given. This banquet will begin at 6:00 in the Bost Extension Center. This year there will be a doctoral and a master’s award for both TA and RA divisions. The deadline for RA/TA nominations is February 24, 2000. Matthew thanked the members for helping to distribute the flyers and invitations.

**Old Business**

Dr. Boyle wrote a letter to Dr. Portera about a 10% increase for the GA stipends. Dr. Rent commented that there is a commitment for this.

Dr. Boyle, Dr. Monts, and Dr. Rent met concerning graduate student fees. Dr. Rent suggested that it would be beneficial to survey other peer institutions to help us better understand our goals. Dr. Person commented that some of that information has already been gathered, and he would forward it to the Council.

Last fall the Council voted on Levels 1 and 2 to remain in place for the graduate faculty. It was mentioned as a reminder that not all colleges are following through with this decision. Dr. Rent reiterated that one of the functions of the Graduate Council is to help monitor the effectiveness of the decentralized organization of graduate studies.

**New Business**

The Council discussed at length graduate standards and identified the following items for consideration at future meetings:
- Standards on dissertations
- Standards in graduate courses and course outlines
- Graduate faculty status
- Programs of study
- Admission standards

Originally scheduled for discussion was residency; however, Dr. Rent requested that the topic of unclassified graduate status be substituted.

Dr. Rent distributed a memo to identify the following items for discussion:

Should a student be required to submit an official transcript with the application for “unclassified” status? This was required about 11 years ago.

Should an “unclassified” graduate student applicant be required to meet a specified undergraduate GPA for admissions? If so, what should it be?
Should “unclassified” graduate students be allowed to continue graduate study if their GPA falls below 3.0?

Should a graduate student who is terminated from a degree program be allowed to subsequently enroll as “unclassified?” Should he or she be able to do this in the semester immediately following his or her termination from a program?

After a lengthy discussion pertaining to unclassified status, a subcommittee was formed to consider this issue and make recommendations to the Council. The subcommittee consists of the following:

Dr. Lynn Reinschmiedt, Dr. Clay Taylor, Dr. Joe Sumrall, and Dr. Bill Person.

The Council was encouraged to look at the January 28th issue of Science magazine. Beginning on page 568, there is an article on graduate schools grading themselves.

Dr. Boyle announced that he would not be able to attend the February 25th meeting of the Graduate Council. Dr. Susan Bridges will chair.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55.