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

On motion by Dr. John Boyle and second by Dr. Lynn Reinschmiedt minutes for January 28, 2005, were approved as distributed.

Dr. Hosie discussed the following:

♦ Dean Coleman informed the Council of a meeting at Mitchell Memorial Library dealing with scholarly communication and publishing. Julia Blixrud, Staff Liaison with Association of Research Libraries (ARL) and assistant deputy director, will be visiting Mississippi State University on March 2 – 3, 2005. The meeting, which is open to the general faculty, will begin at 3 p.m. on March 3, 2005, in the Library Auditorium. There will be a question and answer period during this meeting.

♦ Dr. Hosie noted the next Graduate Council meeting was scheduled on Good Friday and the date needs to be changed. The previous Friday is during spring break. Dr. Hosie suggested scheduling the meeting on Friday, April 1, 2005. The Council will meet in the Library on April 1, 2005.

♦ Dr. Hosie noted the graduate academic misconduct procedures will be revised. Dr. Hosie noted he met with Dr. Wise and Dr. Dunaway and a different approach will be taken. The committee will meet in two weeks and will bring suggestions to the Council.

University Committee on Courses and Curricula (UCCC)

♦ No report.
5. Report from Graduate Studies

♦ Dr. William Person submitted the following written report:

♦ A meeting of the TA Advisory Council has been scheduled for March 1, 2005, in 611 Allen Hall at 1:30 p.m. The focus of this meeting will be to evaluate the 2004 ITA and GTA Workshops and to solicit input for planning the 2005 TA workshops.

♦ A meeting of the Graduate Coordinators has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 23, 2005, at 3:00 p.m. in Swalm Auditorium.

♦ Please encourage your graduate students to submit abstracts for participation in the GSA Research Symposium on April 7-8, 2005. Your support is also needed to serve as judges for the poster and paper presentations on April 8th.

♦ The call for nominations of outstanding graduate teaching, research, and service assistants has been prepared and forwarded to academic department heads and heads of other administrative units with copies to all graduate coordinators. Please assist the Graduate Student Association by nominating appropriate graduate assistants and complying with the deadline of March 29, 2005, at 5:00 p.m. The GSA Awards Banquet has been scheduled for Wednesday, April 20, 2005, at 6:00 p.m. in the M-Club.

♦ The preliminary research ethics activity survey has been sent out to graduate coordinators as requested by the Graduate Council at the January meeting.

Dr. Hosie asked Ms. Burrell to send out a reminder to the Graduate Coordinators about completing the research ethics activity survey.

Dr. Hosie asked if there were any questions concerning the report. Dr. Reinschmiedt asked about item four on the report: are the Associate Deans on the distribution list? Ms. Burrell noted she would check to make sure the Associate Deans are copied on the memorandum.

6. Report from Graduate Student Association

♦ Ms. Lakiesha Claude, President of the Graduate Student Association, presented the following report to the Council:
a. The deadline for abstracts to be submitted for the GSA Research Symposium was today, but it has been extended to Friday, March 4, 2005.

b. The presentations will be made during the symposium on April 8, 2005.

c. Dr. Noel Polk will speak during the symposium on the evening of April 7, 2005.

d. The next GSA meeting will be held on March 9, 2005, at 5:30 in McCool Hall.

7. New Business

a. Transfer of credit through the American Council on Education

Ms. Sharon Nobles spoke to the Council about the Registrar’s Office concerns regarding the transfer of credit through the American Council of Education (ACE). The Registrar’s Office does not take credit from an unaccredited university or community college. Ms. Nobles contacted ACE for further information. The ACE guide is used for evaluating military credit only. Ms. Nobles noted she found out we have taken some ACE credits in the past. A letter dated August 28, 1997, to Dr. Koshel from the Department of Political Science was found specifying the graduate school would accept nine hours of graduate credit from ACE. Ms. Burrell noted the Public Policy and Administration program is using ACE courses for nine hours of electives. Questions have also risen as to accepting work from the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards (also part of ACE). ACE notes it is up to the school to make the final decision to award the graduate level credit.

Discussion followed.

Dr. Hosie noted it appears we are not following our own rules. Dr. Gilbert asked if the Political Science department head had approval of the dean, graduate dean, or the provost. Ms. Burrell noted she hasn’t found anything that indicates approval. Dr. Gilbert noted this letter is not a valid commitment on the part of Mississippi State University.

Discussion followed.

Ms. Burrell’s concern is that the grades are S grades. Aerospace Engineering is currently negotiating a program with one of the military units, and it is their intent to accept 12 hours of S grades. Ms. Burrell noted the issue with accepting ACE credit arose when four students at Meridian were told they could use the ACE for 6 hours of coursework. It reached the department level and was stopped. The students are concerned because they were unable to count these hours and graduate in December.
Dr. Boyle stated there are two pressing issues: (1) our SACS document states that except for international students, MSU accepts credit for courses from accredited institutions only, and (2) pass/fail grades will not transfer. Based on these two issues, we are violating our guidelines. We can correct this if we are willing to allow a directed individual study/special topic to be directed by someone from Mississippi State, which includes material produced from the course and giving credit for that.

The Council also discussed acceptance of ACE coursework for military credit. Dr. Hosie noted the Council would invite Butch Stokes to the next meeting to discuss the transfer of military credit.

Dr. Spencer moved to allow the four students from Meridian to graduate and to put a moratorium on accepting pass/fail transfer credit and allow the Council to study the issue further; motion was seconded by Dr. Boyle. Motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Dr. Hosie will schedule an appointment with Dr. Gilbert and Ms. Ruth Prescott to discuss the issues and will bring suggestions/views from this meeting to the April 1 Graduate Council meeting.

8. Old Business

a. MSU Graduate Excellence Fellowship Program

The subcommittee has made a recommendation related to formation of committee and policy for the fellowships. Dr. Scanes would like for the Council to set up a structure to begin procedures this fall and be ready to begin the fellowship program in fall 2006.

Discussion followed.

Dr. Spencer asked that GMAT scores be included as a qualifying factor for the fellowship.

Dr. Susan Bridges asked if there would be a citizenship requirement. The Council does not view this as a requirement.

With the noted correction from Dr. Spencer, Dr. Wise moved to accept the committee’s report; Dr. Reinschmiedt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.
b. Adjunct Graduate Faculty Appointment

During the November 19, 2004 meeting, Dr. Wise made the motion to modify the Graduate Faculty policy to state that the major professor and at least one-half of the graduate committee must hold academic appointment and must be MSU employees, but exceptions to that rule can be approved at the appropriate level.

The Council discussed how “the appropriate level” should be defined.

Dr. Hosie suggested the following modification:

“The major professor and at least one-half of the graduate committee must hold academic appointment and must be MSU employees; exceptions to the rule can be approved by the appropriate graduate dean. When the major professor is not an MSU employee, the majority of the graduate committee must hold academic appointment and must be MSU employees.”

Dr. Bridges moved to accept the modification to the policy; Dr. Ballweber seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.