Graduate Council Minutes  
Mississippi State University  
2000-2001

NUMBER: 7  
DATE: March 23, 2001  
PRESENT: John Boyle, Chair; E. Betts for F. Coleman; G. Dunaway; L. Hanson; D. Hare; R. Harkess; T. Hosie; R. Jenkins; T. Kohers; J. Miller; K. Paul; W. Person; L. Reinschmiedt; A. Netterville for M. Thorne; M. Rybolt for C. Weaver; G. Rent; S. Schoenholtz; C. Sides; B. Spencer; J. Wesley; D. Wolfe for J. Inmon.  
ABSENT: R. Altenkirch, S. Bullington, C. Taylor, D. Welch  
GUESTS: S. Cunetto

1. Dr. John Boyle called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in the ELI Electronic Classroom of the Mitchell Memorial Library.

2. Mr. Steven Cunetto and Ms. Eula Betts made a special presentation on Electronic Submission of Theses & Dissertations. The entire process, the majority of which was an overview of the software/website, was reviewed and discussed.

3. Dr. Boyle presented the minutes for the Graduate Council meeting held on February 23, 2001. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes.

4. The report for the University Committee on Courses and Curriculum included consideration for a program modification of the Master’s and Specialist’s degree in Educational Leadership. Track one of the modification reflects only three hours difference between the Master’s and Specialist’s programs; this is a problem because a Specialist’s degree is supposed to be 30 hours above the Master’s degree. A motion to table the program modification until a representative from the Department of Educational Leadership could address this issue was made, seconded, and passed.

5. The Office of Graduate Studies received 19 nominations for the Graduate Assistant of the Year Award. Dr. William A. Person has added the category of Service Assistant to this year’s awards. Those serving as chairs of the three review and selection committees are Dr. Carol Lehman, Teaching Assistant; Dr. Dwayne Wise, Research Assistant; and Dr. Jimmy Abraham, Service Assistant.

Dr. Person will be attending the 13th annual National Black Graduate Student Conference on March 28 - April 1, 2001, at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX. Dr. Person serves on the advisory committee of this organization and hopes to identify some outstanding graduate students for Mississippi State University.
6. The representative for the Graduate Student Association, Mr. Michael Rybolt, informed the Council that the Graduate Student’s Association Awards Banquet will be held on April 25, 2001 at 6:00 P.M. and catered by MSU dining services. The invitations will be sent out the first week of April.

7. Dr. Boyle reported the Graduate Council’s recommendation on the issue of representation at defenses and committee meetings to the Provost. The Provost agreed with the Council and has asked the Office of Graduate Studies to include this in the *Graduate Bulletin*. The Provost also supported the Council’s recommendation that graduate certificate programs require a 3.0 GPA.

Dr. Person submitted a proposed modification of the graduate assistantship policy on minimum graduate hours required. The Council reviewed the proposal and agreed to adopt the modification. The new policy states, “the nine-hour course load may not be composed of undergraduate courses, unless the course is a program prerequisite. In such case, the minimum graduate load required will be six (6) credit hours and only one undergraduate course will be permitted as part of the nine-hour load.

8. Dr. Boyle asked the Council if it accepts the Office of Graduate Studies’ flow chart, which was submitted by Ms. Dale Welch at last month’s meeting of the Council in order to clarify the steps required to enter, maintain, and graduate each graduate student. The Council accepted the chart, which the Office of Graduate Studies will publish on its website and distribute to the Graduate Coordinators.

The Council discussed minimum standards to remain in a graduate program, specifically unsatisfactory performance and how the *Graduate Bulletin*, using several "mays," defines this. It is stated that the intent of the “may” is to leave consideration of unsatisfactory performance up to each department. Several members support this view, stating that their college has its own set of written standards and encouraged other colleges to do the same; however, several members do not support this, stating that this leaves the university with no minimum standards. A motion was made and seconded to require each program to establish specific criteria for satisfactory performance to be used as the basis for continued enrollment and these criteria must be on file with the Office of Graduate Studies. Boyle asked for a show of hands for the motion. The tally was eight in favor, two opposed. A vote was taken to determine if the matter should be considered non-routine, which would require reconsideration of the matter at a subsequent meeting of the Graduate Council. In this case, four votes were needed to consider the matter non-routine. There were no votes to consider the matter non-routine; therefore, the motion carried and will be presented to the Office of the Provost.

9. At next month’s Council meeting, nominations for Chair of the Council will be made for the upcoming year. The members who are cycling off are eligible for reelection, and Dr. Boyle has made the list available online.