Graduate Council Minutes  
Mississippi State University

Number: 7  
Date: March 28, 2003

Present: J. Boyle, K. Brocato (for D. Hare), S. Bullington, R. Burrell, S. Byrd,  
T. Hosie, E. Milam, W. Person, C. Piper (for F. Coleman),  
L. Reinschmiedt, T. Schultz, D. Welch, D. Wise, M. Williams,  
D. Wolfe

Absent: L. Barrow, P. Bonfanti, G. Dunaway, J. Pote, G. Rent, R. Shivaji,  
C. Sides, B. Spencer, C. Wang

Guest: Dr. Boyd Gatlin (for Dr. Robert Taylor)

1. Dr. John Boyle called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in Room 611 Allen.

2. Following a motion by Dr. Dwayne Wise and second by Dr. Lynn Reinschmiedt, the  
Council approved the February 28, 2003 minutes.

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

   The Council reviewed a modification to a previously approved certificate program.  
The College of Engineering revised the Geospatial and Remote Sensing  
Engineering Certificate Program to fulfill College of Engineering policy and  
requirements: changed administration and admission of candidates; clarified issuance of certificates; and modified curriculum to fit College of Engineering requirements.

   Dr. Boyd Gatlin, Director of Education, Engineering Research Center, represented the College of Engineering.

   Dr. Wise made a motion to accept the proposed certificate modification. Dr.  
Reinschmiedt seconded the motion. The Council approved the modification.

4. Dr. William Person presented the report from the Office of Graduate Studies:

   a. Several members of the Graduate Council will participate in the Roundtable Discussion on Graduate Education at Lake Tiak O’Khata on Saturday, March 29, 2003. Please apprise Dr. Person or any other Graduate Council members participating (John Boyle, Sylvia Byrd, Dwight Hare, Barbara Spencer, Dwayne Wise, Jonathan Pote) of any concerns relative to graduate education that you would like to have discussed. Including the president and provost, there should be about 25 participants.
b. Dr. Person and Christina Lee, Graduate Assistant in the Office of Graduate Studies, attended the National Black Graduate Student Association Annual Meeting in Atlanta, March 19-23.

c. There are 80 doctoral applicants for spring graduation. In order to meet the Carnegie Doctoral/Research-Extensive and SREB requirements of 100 doctoral graduates, 45 doctoral students must graduate in May.

d. Dr. Reinschmiedt asked for information relative to the number of doctoral students in the pipeline. Dr. Person indicated that the enrollment had remained level at approximately 700 for the past several years. Ms. Dale Welch noted that a university must maintain 100 doctoral graduates two-out-of-three consecutive years in order to retain SREB designation.

5. Dr. Michele Williams reported the following activities for the Graduate Student Association (GSA):

   a. The GSA election was held on Tuesday, March 25. Eighty-six graduate students voted in the GSA officer election. Kori Vasser Brabham (Agricultural and Biological Engineering) was elected President; Josh Herring (Food Science) was elected Vice President; Susan Bowers (Animal and Dairy Science) was elected Secretary; and Jennifer Barclay Vincequere (Political Science) was elected Treasurer. The referendum to increase student activities passed by 72%. Graduate student fees will increase by $6.67/credit hour.

   b. A Graduate Research Fair will be held in Colvard Union on Thursday, April 3, 9:00 a.m. – 2:45 p.m. Graduate students have submitted 31 abstracts (oral presentations and poster presentations). There will be a lunch break from 12:00 – 12:45 p.m. An e-mail will be sent to academic departments inviting faculty and staff. Sigma Xi will assist in judging the participants.

   c. The Graduate Student Association Banquet will be held Wednesday, April 23, 6:00 p.m., at the M-Club. Please R.S.V.P.

   d. The next GSA meeting will be Tuesday, April 8, 5:00 p.m., Room Allen 11. A representative from Human Resources Management will discuss Worker’s Compensation.

6. As a matter of old business, Dr. Boyle postponed discussing international student fees until the April 24 meeting.

7. As another item of old business, the Council continued the discussion on academic misconduct.
As a follow-up item to last month’s discussion, Dr. Boyle discussed the issue of appeal by faculty if a determination of academic misconduct is overturned. He met with Mr. Johnnie Haley, University Counsel, at the request of the Council. Mr. Haley determined that the GAHC Committee reviewing the misconduct would make a determination, which in turn should be forwarded to the Provost. Ultimately, the Provost will affirm up/down the determination. This is a modification to the proposed procedure. The Council agreed that a faculty member could file a grievance if his/her decision is overturned.

Dr. Byrd asked for clarification on handling academic misconduct in interdisciplinary programs. Dr. Wise indicated that the college home of the program would be responsible, i.e., the academic home in which the program coordinator resides. The process relative to interdisciplinary programs will be specified in the document.

Dr. Byrd asked for clarification relative to forming review committees for interdisciplinary programs. Dr. Boyle noted that each interdisciplinary program and department housing programs should establish an academic misconduct review committee.

At the request of Dr. Reinschmiedt, the Council discussed the issue of academic misconduct being reviewed by a university committee, similar to the undergraduate process. Dr. Hosie noted that the original intent was that decisions about academic misconduct by graduate students would be in the hands of the department.

The Council discussed the time line involved in the process. As drafted, a determination would go forth, and the student would still be in good standing until a decision has been made. As long as there is an appeal in process, a student could continue his/her program.

The Council agreed that department heads would have 10 business days for review and decision, as well as an additional 10 business days for deans.

The committee will incorporate changes to the document and distribute to the Council, via the Office of Graduate Studies, with the April Graduate Council agenda.

8. An item for new business for the April meeting will be revisions to the Graduate Studies Bulletin to reflect faculty membership for Extension personnel.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.