1.

Dr. Tom Hosie called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m. in 611 Allen Hall.

2.

Dr. Hosie asked for any revisions to the minutes (April 28, 2006).

Dr. Hosie noted the following corrections:

Page 3:

“Dr. Hosie noted the following correction: delete the GRE score requirement but include requiring a GRE score.”

Page 6:

“The Council decided to leave this issue take no action on this issue.”

Motion was made by Dr. Lou D’Abramo and seconded by Dr. John Boyle to accept the minutes with the noted corrections.

Motion carried.

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

• Proposed New Programs

  • Doctor of Philosophy in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences

  Dr. John Mylroie presented information on the Doctor of Philosophy in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences.

  Discussion followed.
Motion was made by Dr. D’Abramo and seconded by Dr. Connie Forde to accept the addition of the Doctor of Philosophy program in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences.

Motion was approved by acclamation.

- Master of Engineering – Distance Program

Dr. Kirk Schulz presented information on the proposed new Master of Engineering distance program.

Discussion followed.

Motion was made by Dr. Boyle and seconded by Dr. Ratnasingham Shivaji to accept the addition of the Master of Engineering – Distance program.

Motion was approved by acclamation.

- Program Modification

- Master of Public Policy and Administration

Dr. Edward Clynch presented the following changes to the Master of Public Policy and Administration:

- Drop PPA 8123 as a required course.
- Drop PPA 8103 as a required course.
- Add PPA 8833 as a required course.
- Add PPA 8983 (Integrative Capstone) as a required course
  - This course will serve as the way Master of Public Administration and Public Policy students demonstrate the knowledge and skills acquired in other classes and will constitute the comprehensive exam. A grade of B or better in this class will be necessary to graduate.
- Change the criterion for dismissal to receiving a grade of C, or lower, for six credits.
- Drop the reference to failing the comprehensive exam.

Discussion followed.

Motion was made by Dr. Boyle and seconded by Dr. Nick Younan to accept the modifications to the Master of Public Policy and Administration program.

Motion was approved by acclamation.
• Program Modifications (Originally considered at Graduate Council Meeting, May 2005)

• Doctor of Philosophy in History

Dr. Peter Messer presented the following changes to the Doctor of Philosophy program in History:

- Require each candidate for the Ph.D. degree to take two research seminars.
- Require each candidate for the Ph.D. degree with a primary field of emphasis in United States History to complete all four of the Graduate Colloquia in United States History (HI 8933, HI 8943, HI 8953, HI 8963)

Discussion followed.

Motion was made by Dr. D’Abramo and seconded by Dr. Daniel Reynolds to accept the modifications to the Doctor of Philosophy program in History.

Motion was approved by acclamation.

• Master of Arts in History

Dr. Peter Messer presented the following changes to the Master of Arts program in History:

- Require that each candidate for the M.A. degree must complete one research seminar.
- Require that each candidate for the M.A. degree with a primary field of emphasis in United States History must also complete two of the four Graduate Colloquia in United States History (HI 8933, HI 8943, HI 8953, HI 8963), one in the period before 1877 (HI 8933 or HI 8943) and one period after 1877 (HI 8953 or HI 8963).

Motion was made by Dr. D’Abramo and seconded by Dr. Reynolds to accept the modifications to the Master of Arts program in History.

Motion was approved by acclamation.

4. Report from Graduate Studies

Dr. William Person presented the following report:

- We will have a total of 252 master’s, 12 educational specialist, and 50 doctoral students graduating this spring. The total doctoral graduates will give
us a total of 111 for the academic year.

- I am pleased to announce that one of our three GAANN (Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need) proposals, submitted to the U.S. Department of Education earlier this academic year, has been awarded $507,000 for three years in Chemistry. This fellowship program will allow the department to support five fellowships for highly-qualified doctoral students in that discipline.

- A memorandum was sent to Academic department heads and Graduate Coordinators encouraging them to adjust stipends for graduate assistants as much as possible. The budget guidelines for fiscal year 2006 – 2007 do not restrict graduate assistantship position lines to the 7% maximum raise.

- A transitional meeting of the Graduate Student Association old and new officers will be held within the next two weeks. As some of you may know, Mr. Curtis Matherne, III, is the new president for 2006-2007 and will be the official representative on the Graduate Council.

- The Super Recruitment Weekend, titled IMPETUS- PGE (Increasing Momentum to Provide Empowerment to Talented Undergraduate Students to Pursue Graduate Education), involved the participation of approximately 45 undergraduate students from Miles College (AL), Alabama State University, Alabama A&M, Mississippi Valley State University, Jackson State University, Alcorn State University, Philander Smith College, and Mississippi State University. We had the pleasure of a brief visit by President Foglesong at the closing luncheon on Saturday, April 29, 2006.

- A Pre-academic Program for international students who have received Fulbright Fellowships has been funded. We can accept up to thirty-five students. These students have received Fulbright Fellowships to study in the United States, not necessarily at Mississippi State University. We will provide a two-week cultural experience for them. If thirty-five students are assigned to us, we can receive up to $111,000 for each of the next three years. We currently have approximately twenty students assigned to us.

5. Report from Graduate Student Association

   - No report.

6. Old Business

   - **Official transcripts required for graduate admissions consideration**

     Dr. Person distributed a handout on graduate admissions requirements at peer institutions. Out of the twelve institutions queried, eight require
official documents from all institutions. Dr. Person asked permission from the Council to not require community college transcripts or other university transcripts for the admissions process except as determined necessary.

**Current policy (Graduate Bulletin 2005-06, page 39):**
“Applicants should request official transcripts from all institutions where undergraduate or graduate course work has been attempted.”

Discussion followed.

Dr. D’Abramo recommended returning to the policy in place prior to Spring 2003, which required: “Official transcripts from the college which an applicant is attending or has attended and will be receiving or has received a Bachelor’s and/or Master’s degree.”

Discussion followed.

Dr. D’Abramo modified the motion to read:

“Official transcripts from the college which an applicant is attending or has attended and will be receiving or has received a Bachelor’s and/or Master’s and all additional graduate work.”

Dr. Person noted we will send the amended statement via email next week.

- **Tuition waiver for continuously enrolled students**

Dr. Boyle submitted the report from the subcommittee regarding comprehensive examinations:

**Issue:**

Current policy states that a student must be within six hours of completion of the program of study before taking the comprehensive examination. This impacts MS students adversely in some circumstances.

**The subcommittee submitted the following recommendation to address this issue:**

“Non-thesis master’s candidates and educational specialists will take their comprehensive examination in their terminal semester excluding practica and internships. Other master’s candidates must be within six hours of completion of their program of study before taking the comprehensive examination.”
Discussion followed.

**The statement was amended as follows:**

“Non-thesis candidates will take their comprehensive examination in their terminal semester excluding practica and internships. Thesis candidates must be within six hours of completion of their program of study before taking the comprehensive examination.”

Motion was made by Dr. Boyle and seconded by Dr. Shivaji to accept the recommendation with noted corrections.

Motion was approved by acclamation.

- **Issues to bring before the Deans Council**
  
  Dr. Hosie noted he didn’t receive feedback from the Council on this matter.

- **Simplifying admissions within degree program levels**
  
  The Request for a Change of Degree Program form was distributed. This form will eliminate the need for a letter for a student to change levels within the same major.

  Discussion followed.

  Dr. Forde noted we need to add the student’s signature to the form. Dr. Forde also noted it may be better to use the undergraduate change of major format.

  Dr. D’Abramo suggested rewording the top of the form

  from:

  “… when changing degree program from master’s or specialist to doctoral, or doctoral to master’s or specialist, within the same major.”

  to:

  “… when **shifting** degree program from **level of** masters or specialist to doctoral, or doctoral to master’s or specialist, within the same major.”

  Ms. Burrell noted we will amend the statement and send it to the Council via email.
7. New Business

- **Nominations for Council Chair and Vice Chair**

  Dr. Hosie opened the floor for nominations for Council Chair and Vice Chair.

  Dr. Boyle nominated Dr. Barbara Spencer for Council Chair.
  Dr. Shivaji nominated Dr. Boyle for Vice Chair.

  Motion was made by Dr. Willard and seconded by Dr. Shivaji to close the nominations. Nominations were closed.

  Dr. Hosie noted if Dr. Spencer withdraws her name from consideration for the Council Chair, other nominations will be sought.

8. Other Items

- Dr. Scanes noted appreciation for the hard work of the Graduate Council.
  Dr. Scanes noted since the Faculty Senate meeting on graduate education, the Senate is working on additional possibilities for increasing graduate assistantship stipends.
- Ms. Burrell asked to have the report on academic misconduct placed on a future agenda.
- The next Graduate Council meeting will be held on August 25, 2006.

Meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.