Graduate Council  
Mississippi State University  
Minutes

Number:  10  
Date:  May 13, 2005

Present:  L. Ballweber, L. Bonner, J. Boyle , T. Chamblee,  P. Bonfanti, R. Burrell, S. Byrd,  
L. Claude, C. Dill, G. Dunaway, J. Gilbert, T. Hosie, W. Person,  J. Pote, D. Reynolds, C.  
Sides, P. Sullivan, B. Spencer,

Absent: L. Barrow, S. Bridges, F. Coleman, L. Crittenden, L. D’Abramo, C. Forde, C.  
Scanes, R. Shivaji, R. Taylor, D. Wise

Guests:  Dr. David Monts, Dr. Mark W. Schilling, Dr. Jianzhang Xu

1. Dr. Tom Hosie called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. in 611 Allen Hall.

2. Dr. Hosie asked for any revisions/corrections to the minutes (April 22, 2005). Motion was made by Dr. Gregory Dunaway and seconded by Dr. John Boyle to accept minutes as distributed.

   Motion carried.

3. Dr. Hosie noted the ETD Rights and Permission Form is included in packet to show the modification statement by major professor/dissertation director requested by Graduate Council to read as follows: “My signature below indicates that I have advised the student regarding the appropriate access level for the electronic thesis/dissertation named above.”

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

   Dr. Hosie informed the Council of proposed program modifications to several programs.

   a. Dr. Tim Chamblee, representative from the UCCC, noted that all three doctoral programs presented for modification are from the College of Agriculture and Life Science (CALS). CALS proposes to modify three existing Ph. D. programs and to reflect changes that occurred in the Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) areas in 2000. Doctoral programs available through the College will be reconstructed under three umbrella programs.

   1) Doctor of Philosophy in Animal Physiology – change to Doctor of Philosophy in Agricultural Life Sciences. The Ph.D. in Agricultural Life Sciences will be an umbrella Ph.D. program for departments in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The concentration areas available to students in this degree program will be Animal Physiology, Entomology, and Genetics.
2) **Doctor of Philosophy in Nutrition** – change to Doctor of Philosophy in Food Science and Nutrition. The Ph.D. in Food Science and Nutrition will be an umbrella Ph.D. program for departments in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The concentration areas available to students in this degree program will be Human Nutrition and Food Science.

3) **Doctor of Philosophy in Plant and Soil Sciences** – change to Doctor of Philosophy in Agriculture. The Ph.D. in Agriculture will be an umbrella Ph.D. program for departments in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The concentration areas available to students in this degree program will be Agronomy, Horticulture, Weed Science, Animal Nutrition, Animal and Dairy Science and Poultry Science.

Discussion followed.

On motion by Dr. Boyle and second by Dr. Barbara Spencer, the Council voted to accept program modifications for the three doctoral programs.

Motion carried unanimously.

b. Dr. David Monts, representative from Department of Physics, noted that the Master of Physics is granted by the College of Arts and Sciences and Doctor of Philosophy-Emphasis in Engineering Physics is granted by the College of Engineering. Dr. Monts informed the Council that Dean Schultz, College of Engineering, and Dean Odom, College of Arts and Sciences, support moving the doctorate to the College of Arts and Sciences.

1) **Modification to Master of Science in Physics**

The Department of Physics and Astronomy requests a modification to the current M.S. degree to include a non-thesis option. The goal is to educate students to serve as technical experts with technology companies and other industries and to teach in community colleges and high schools.

2) **Doctor of Philosophy in Engineering – Engineering Physics Emphasis**

The Department of Physics and Astronomy requests that the name of the current Ph.D. program in Engineering with an emphasis in Engineering Physics be changed to Engineering with an emphasis in Applied Physics; thereby being more embedded with the M.S. degree in Physics.

Discussion followed.

Dr. Dunaway made a motion to deny proposed modifications and return to the department for modification to ensure compliance with graduate studies requirements. The motion was seconded by Dr. Boyle.

Motion carried unanimously.
The Council requested that Dr. William Person and Ms. Rita Burrell assist Dr. Monts with revision of the proposed modifications for consideration. Revisions will be submitted to the Council via email. The Council will vote electronically so that modifications may be implemented Fall 2005.

c. No representative from the Department of History was in attendance. The department proposes adding additional courses to the master’s and doctoral programs in History.

1) **Modification to Master of Arts in History**
   The department proposes to require that each candidate for the M.A. degree must complete one research seminar. Each candidate for the M.A. degree in History with an emphasis in United States History must also complete two of the four Graduate M.A. Colloquia in United States History, one in the period before 1877 and one in the period after 1877.

2) **Modification to Doctor of Philosophy in History**
   The department proposes to require that each candidate for the Ph.D. degree must take two research seminars; that each candidate for the Ph.D. in History with an emphasis in United States History takes 12 hours of the proposed Graduate Ph.D. Colloquia in United States History; and that one of the two minor fields taken by Ph.D. students must be drawn from a geographical region separate from their area of major emphasis.

Ms. Burrell noted that the proposed modifications are in conflict with policy relative to minors approved last month by Graduate Council.

Discussion Followed.

On motion by Dr. Dunaway and second by Dr. Boyle, the Council unanimously voted to deny the proposed modifications and to return to the department for modifications to be resubmitted to Council. Dr. Person and Ms. Burrell will assist Dr. Peter Messer, Graduate Coordinator in History, with revisions.

d. Dr. Jianzhang Xu, representative from the Department of Curriculum and Instruction informed the Council that the modification is intended to increase research requirements.

1) **Modification to Doctor of Philosophy in Elementary Education, Secondary Education, and Curriculum and Instruction**
   There are three Ph.D. programs in Department of Curriculum and Instruction. A lack of qualitative course offerings makes it difficult for students to pursue their potential dissertation topics in education which increasingly call for mixed approaches to address educational problems. During the last decade many other research universities (e.g., UCLA and the
University of Georgia) have expanded their qualitative research sequence into three or four courses.

Discussion followed.

On motion by Dr. Boyle and second by Dr. Sylvia Byrd, the Council voted unanimously to accept the program modification.

5. Report from Graduate Studies

a. Dr. Person reported to the Council that MSU will award 111 doctoral degrees this academic year.

b. The AGEM Summer Bridge Program is scheduled for July 5 – August 5, 2005. The program is for underrepresented graduate students in the STEM areas (preferably doctoral students). Dr. Howard Adams, consultant from Atlanta, GA, will be conducting a mentoring workshop for faculty and staff, August 2, 2005, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

c. Ms. Alicia Aiken will be working in the Office of Graduate Studies on the AGEM Summer Bridge program as a Graduate Research Assistant.

d. The International Teaching Assistant Workshop is scheduled for August 2-8, 2005, and the General Teaching Assistant Workshop is scheduled for August 10-11, 2005.

e. The New Graduate Orientation is scheduled for August 15, 2005, McCool Hall Auditorium, at 1:30 p.m. A welcome reception will be held at 12:30 p.m.

6. Report from Graduate Student Association

Ms. Lakeshia Claude reported to Council that new officers have been selected, and there will be a transitional meeting in early June 2005.

7. Old Business

- Continuous Registration Policy. The Council reviewed the policy which was a carry over from April meeting.

Discussion followed.

On motion by Dr. Boyle and second by Dr. Dunaway, the Council voted on Dr. Lou D’Abramo’s motion of the April 22, 2005, meeting to modify the existing continuous registration policy to read: “A student not continuously registered will pay tuition and registration fees for missed terms at current rates, unless extenuating circumstances are
"thoroughly documented as determined (and amended by Dr. Wise to add) and approved by the Provost."

The motion failed. The Council will review the policy for required continuous registration at the August 2005 meeting.

8. New Business

a. Dr. Hosie opened the floor for nomination of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Graduate Council for 2005-2006. Dr. Boyle nominated Dr. Hosie as Chair. No other nominations were made. Dr. Hosie accepted.

Dr. Byrd seconded the nomination.

Dr. Boyle nominated Dr. Barbara Spencer as Vice-Chair. No other nominations were made. Dr. Spencer accepted.

Dr. Ballweber seconded the nomination. Dr. Person will distribute the ballots via email for Council vote.

b. Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Committee

Dr. Hosie presented a letter from Ms. Tracey Arwood with the request for a member from the Graduate Council to participate on committee.

Discussion followed

Dr. Person will distribute an email to the Council so that a nomination may be made and a vote conducted.

Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.