May 14, 2007

Graduate Council
Mississippi State University

Number: 9
Date: May 14, 2007


Absent: S. Nobles, P. Rabideau, K. Schulz, R. Shivaji, R. Taylor

Guests: S. Bullington, J. Chromiak, C. George, A. Marcus, D. Shaw, C. Williams

1. Dr. Barbara Spencer called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m. in 208-A McCool Hall.

2. Dr. Spencer asked for any revisions to the minutes (April 27, 2007).

   Motion was made by Dr. Dwayne Wise and seconded by Mr. Mark Thomas to accept the minutes.

   Minutes were approved.

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

4. Dr. Timothy Chamblee gave the following report:

   Eight items have been forwarded to Graduate Council by UCCC, including one M.S. distance degree and one Ph.D. distance degree. The distance degree programs were delayed until the Research Hours via Distance Policy has been developed and approved. IHL approves certificates and distance education degrees four times a year, January, April, July and October. The request for these items to be placed on the IHL agenda must be received by IHL one month prior to the meeting. In order to place the certificate programs and distance degrees on the July IHL agenda, we must complete the on-campus approval (Graduate Council and Deans Council) in time for the Office of the Provost to send the request to IHL by June 1. If the deadline for the July IHL meeting is missed, these programs will be on the October agenda and implementation of these programs at MSU will be delayed. Thus, the programs would not be available for student enrollment in August and student enrollment would be delayed until January 2008.

   a) Master of Science in Physical Education – Sports Administration
Dr. Joseph Chromiak, Interim Head and Graduate Coordinator of the Department of Kinesiology, presented the following overview:

The proposed modifications are the removal of PE 8213 (Problems in Administration of Athletics) from core requirements; change of title from PE 8823 (The Sport Product) to PE 8823 (Sports Sponsorships) and from PE 8123 (Physical Education and Sports Programs) to PE 8123 (Sport Administration); addition of PE 8823 (Sports Sponsorships) and PE 8881 (Sport Administration Practicum) to the degree core requirement; change in core requirements for PE 8303 (Research in Exercise Science and Sport) to PE 8303 (Research in Exercise Science and Sport or EDF 8363 (Functions and Methods of Research in Education); and an increase of the minimum hours required for graduation from 33-36 hours to 36-39 hours.

The purposes of the proposed changes is to move the Sports Administration program of emphasis in a direction that is more in line with the accreditation standards of the American Society of Sports Management.

Dr. Spencer remarked that MGT 9613 is a doctoral level course and should not be included in this degree proposal.

Dr. Tom Hosie moved to accept the proposed modification to the Master of Science Degree in Physical Education – Sports Administration, and Dr. Daniel Reynolds seconded the motion.

The modifications to the Master of Science Degree in Physical Education – Sports Administration were approved unanimously.

b) Master of Science in Industrial Engineering and Doctor of Philosophy in Engineering – Industrial Engineering

Dr. Stan Bullington, Graduate Coordinator of the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, presented the following overview:

Both of these degrees have been offered by the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering for quite some time and are now presented so these offerings by distance can be formalized. The main question regarding these programs was how the research hours via distance would be handled, and both of these proposals address this issue. For the master’s program, the majority of students are in the non-thesis option.

Discussion ensued regarding research hours via distance education. It was determined Graduate Council dealt with this issue at the last meeting. For master’s students in the thesis option and for doctoral students, a form stating details concerning the research has to be approved by the student’s committee and a process is in place to monitor such research.
Dr. Wise moved to grant Graduate Council approval to award the Master of Science Degree in Industrial Engineering and the Doctor of Philosophy in Engineering Degree with a concentration in Industrial Engineering via distance education. Dr. Scott Willard seconded the motion.

The Master of Science Degree in Industrial Engineering and the Doctor of Philosophy in Engineering Degree with a concentration in Industrial Engineering via distance education were approved unanimously.

c) **Doctor of Philosophy in History**

Dr. Alan Marcus, Head of the Department of History, presented the following overview:

The proposed changes are to require all Ph.D. students to have a specialization in one of the Department’s three core areas: International Security and Internal Safety, or History of Science and Technology, or Agricultural, Rural, and Environmental History. In addition, each student will be required to complete one seminar in his or her area of specialization [HI 8873 (proposed), or HI 8893 (proposed), or HI 8883 U.S. Agricultural History, 1500-2000] and three related courses chosen by the student in consultation with his or her graduate committee.

The purpose of this modification is to strengthen the history program by encouraging specialization among graduate students. The requirement will give the graduate program a distinct identity and relate it closely to Mississippi State’s land grant mission. At the present time, no other program in the University or in the system offers a doctoral field of emphasis that includes a humanistic perspective in these areas. The Department of History is proud to proclaim that they are the fourth largest Ph.D.-granting program in the National Research Council (NRC) Study; 150 doctoral degrees in history have been awarded at Mississippi State University.

Dr. Willard moved to accept the proposed modification to the Doctor of Philosophy Degree in History, and Dr. Peter Ryan seconded the motion.

The modifications to the Doctor of Philosophy Degree in History were approved unanimously.

d) **Pre-proposal for Master of Science Degree in General Biology**

Dr. Chamblee explained that a pre-proposal is meant to alleviate extensive work in the beginning for a degree program that may not be approved by the State Institutions of Higher Learning Board (IHL). Instead, contingent upon IHL approval of the pre-proposal, courses and details are developed and submitted as a full proposal.
Dr. Dwayne Wise, Graduate Coordinator of the Department of Biological Sciences, presented the following overview:

This is a pre-proposal for a new online distance education Master of Science in General Biology degree program. The 33-credit hour non-thesis program will target practicing K-12 teachers in Mississippi and throughout the nation who need graduate-level comprehensive instruction in biology. Screening during the admission process will ensure that the applicant fits the intended target group. The degree program is modeled after the Teachers in Geosciences distance learning program. Most of the courses are not new, but the existing courses will be retooled to fit the new degree program for the specific target group.

Discussion followed. One of the main questions was how the department would prevent students already in a program on campus from enrolling in any of the online courses. Dr. Wise stated that registration would be restricted to students in the Master of Science in General Biology degree program. Dr. Gilbert added that the issue can also be addressed by stating who can take it in the description of the courses.

Graduate Council advised that the Biology Department seek the collaboration of Dr. Burnette Hamil of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction because of her knowledge of the requirements teachers have to continue their education. Also, any inconsistencies in the proposal about cross-listing and transfer credit must be addressed. Furthermore, more specific information regarding the number of students allowed in one section, the course size, and any prerequisites must be provided.

Dr. Donald Jackson moved to grant Graduate Council approval for the pre-proposal of the Master of Science in General Biology distance education degree program. Dr. Hosie seconded the motion.

The pre-proposal of the Master of Science in General Biology distance education degree program was unanimously approved with the caveat that the Biology Department correct any inconsistencies mentioned earlier and seek the guidance of appropriate units on campus.

e) **Certificate in Automotive Engineering**

Dr. Clifford George from the Department of Chemical Engineering presented the following overview:

A certificate program in automotive engineering is proposed; it has been under consideration for several years. It will be a multidisciplinary effort, involving the departments of Mechanical Engineering, Industrial Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Computer Engineering. Upon approval by the UCCC, this
program will become an additional offering of the Bagley College of Engineering, Center for Engineering Student Excellence (CESE). It will enable students enrolled in a variety of engineering programs and engineering graduate students enhance their education in topical subject matter related specifically to automotive engineering.

The 15-hours of designated academic credit required for this certificate may be earned by competing selected courses from a list of qualifying courses designated by a representative faculty committee. These courses include one from the Level I list; two from the Level II list; a course entitled “Automotive Engineering” that will be taught under the cross-listed course numbers of ME 4196-6193, ECE 4193/6193, ISE 4193/6193 and CHE 4193/6193; plus a directed individual study course (ME/ECE/ISE/CHE-4000/6000) related to a team experience in automotive engineering. Additionally, at least two of the courses (6 hours) taken for the Automotive Engineering Certificate must be in addition to the courses required for the student’s graduation from his or her major. In case of graduate students, the student’s graduate committee will determine how many of the courses taken for the Certificate fulfill course requirements for the student’s graduate degree.

Discussion followed about the number or hours required for a graduate student to obtain the certificate. It was determined that a graduate student will need 12 hours of graduate coursework to obtain the certificate.

Dr. Wise moved to grant Graduate Council approval for the Certificate in Automotive Engineering with corrections. Mr. Mark Thomas seconded the motion.

The Certificate in Automotive Engineering with corrections was approved unanimously.

f) Geospatial and Remote Sensing Technology Certificate

Dr. David Shaw, Director of the GeoResources Institute, presented the following overview:

The Department of Geosciences requested that the current on-campus Geospatial and Remote Sensing Technology Certificate be offered in a flexible web-based format as a stand-alone certificate. He explained that this certificate is not specifically defined as a graduate or undergraduate certificate. Graduate and undergraduate students make different choices toward earning the certificate based on their classification.

Dr. Robert Moorhead moved to grant Graduate Council approval for the Geospatial and Remote Sensing Technology Certificate. Dr. Reynolds seconded the motion.
The online Geospatial and Remote Sensing Technology Certificate was approved unanimously.

g) Cognitive Science Certificate

Dr. Carrick Williams from the Psychology Department presented the following overview:

This is an interdisciplinary graduate certificate program in Cognitive Science with a purpose of recognizing the completion of an organized plan of study relating to cognitive science. The program draws on existing graduate courses offered within the College of Arts and Science, the College of Engineering, and the College of Education.

Dr. Wise moved to grant Graduate Council approval for the Certificate in Cognitive Science. Mr. Mark Thomas seconded the motion.

The Cognitive Science Certificate was approved unanimously.

5. Report from Graduate Studies (OGS)

Dr. William Person presented the following report:

a) A total of 314 graduate students completed requirements for graduation this spring. Of that number, we graduated a total of 254 master’s students, 10 educational specialists, and 50 doctoral students. We had a total of 107 doctoral graduates for the 2006-2007 academic year.

b) The National Science Foundation selected Wesley Holland as a fellow beginning with the 2007-2008 academic year. The fellowship awards a total of $40,500 per year, $30,000 stipend and $10,500 cost-of-education allowance, for three years. Mr. Holland will continue his graduate education at Mississippi State University in Computer Engineering.

c) We have transferred $100 to supplement the cost of the student health insurance to 458 graduate assistants’ MSU accounts. The supplemental insurance program was implemented this spring and will increase by $100 over the next 3 academic years to cover approximately 40 percent, culminating with $400 in fall 2009, of the cost of the health insurance plan for graduate assistants. This fall we will transfer $200 to the graduate assistants’ MSU Banner Accounts.

d) Some Graduate Council nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair have been received, they are Dr. Spencer for Chair and Dr. Wise and Dr. Reynolds for Vice Chair. As soon as all the responses are in, an electronic ballot will be sent to elect the Chair and Vice-Chair by electronic vote.
e) OGS would like to include a statement in the Graduate Bulletin under Continuous Enrollment that states that “Continuous registration must include the fall semester.” Requiring enrollment in fall semester would enable us to boost our enrollment numbers when the official enrollment count is taken; we are currently missing between 40 and 60 students who are in graduate programs but not enrolled in fall.

Dr. Spencer asked Dr. Gilbert to explain the new University policy that requires all new employees and graduate students on assistantship to undergo a background check that will cost $60.00. Dr. Gilbert confirmed that this new policy will go in effect July 1. Human Resources is still formulating the policy. Dr. Spencer urged Graduate Council members to contact Ms. Ann Bell at Human Resources regarding to this policy and graduate assistants. The cost for the background checks will come out of departments’ budgets.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.