

**Graduate Council  
Mississippi State University**

**Number: 6**

**Date: February 23, 2007**

**Present: H. Bailey, L. Barrow, J. Boyle, R. Burrell, M. Busby (for M. Binkley), T. Chamblee, A. Davis (for C. Matherne), C. Forde, J. Gilbert, T. Hosie, D. Jackson, J. Jones (for Lynne Cossman), R. King, K. Lee, S. Nobles, P. Rabideau, , J. Schmidt (for F. Coleman), F. Sparks, B. Spencer, P. Sullivan, J. To, D. Wise, N. Younan**

**Absent: P. Bonfanti, W. Person, D. Reynolds, K. Schulz, R. Shivaji, R. Taylor, S. Willard**

**Guests: K. Mead, C. Smith**

1. Dr. Barbara Spencer called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. in 611 Allen Hall.
2. Dr. Spencer asked for any revisions to the minutes (January 26, 2007).

Motion was made by Dr. John Boyle and seconded by Dr. Dwayne Wise to accept the minutes.

Minutes were approved.

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

Dr. Timothy Chamblee gave the following report:

The Master of Business Administration Distance Program proposal from the College of Business and Industry has been approved by UCCC.

Graduate Council did not have any additional questions regarding the Distance MBA. Dr. Boyle made a motion to approve the program, seconded by Dr. Tom Hosie.

Motion was accepted and the Distance MBA program was approved.

4. Report from Graduate Studies (OGS)

Dr. William Person was not present. In his absence, Dr. Spencer distributed a written report submitted by Dr. Person with the following information:

- a) On February 1, 2007, our office sent an electronic memorandum to academic department heads and graduate coordinators informing them of the status of our doctoral graduates for academic year 2006-2007. As indicated in the memorandum, we need a minimum of 43 doctoral graduates in May to regain our

- Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Doctoral Level 1 Status. Please encourage the graduate faculty in your disciplines to focus on graduating as many of its doctoral students as possible this spring to assure our success regarding this matter.
- b) On April 13-14, 2007, our office will host its second annual super recruitment weekend, titled IMPETUS-PGE (Increasing Momentum to Provide Empowerment to Talented Undergraduate Students to Pursue Graduate Education). We will invite 50 juniors and seniors in the STEM areas to spend Friday and Saturday on our campus. There will be a graduate research information fair in the Hunter Henry Center at approximately 1:30 p.m. on Friday, April 13, 2007. Also, that evening at approximately 6:30 p.m. there will be an informal reception for these students in Coskrey Auditorium in Memorial Hall. The Graduate Council is invited to participate in these two events to meet these potential graduate students.
- c) The Graduate Student Association will host its 5<sup>th</sup> annual Research Symposium on Friday, March 30, 2007 at the Wise Center. If your time permits, please encourage your graduate faculty to assist the GSA with the judging of its poster and paper presentations.
5. Report from Graduate Student Association (GSA)

Mr. Curtis Matherne, GSA president, was not present. Ms. Amy Davis, GSA Secretary, presented the following report:

Only ten abstracts for the upcoming Research Symposium on March 30, 2007 have been received. Consequently, the deadline for submitting abstracts has been extended until after spring break (March 19). GSA asked Graduate Council members to encourage graduate students to participate in the symposium. The next meeting of the GSA will be held on Thursday, March 1, 2007, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in Allen Hall, Room 13.

4. Old Business

a) Graduate Dean search update

- The search is going extremely well; a number of excellent candidates have applied. Deadline for applying was February 1, 2007.
- The next meeting of the search committee is scheduled for February 23, 2007, at 3:30 p.m.; the committee will continue to evaluate applications.
- Dr. Spencer, a member of the search committee, stated that she expects to be able to share some more information at the next Graduate Council meeting.

b) Electronic Application Process Update

Dr. Spencer mentioned that the University is rapidly moving toward encouraging all graduate students to apply electronically, but students will not be restricted to applying only electronically.

Dr. Spencer referred to the last Graduate Council meeting during which a survey was promised to be distributed to all colleges that will list all the majors in a program to which graduate students can apply. The survey has not gone out but Dr. Person assured Dr. Spencer that the survey will go out within two weeks. Dr. Spencer noted that the degree programs in the application screens the student will see when applying online are not at all like the degree programs described by departments. The reason for this discrepancy is that the electronic application is based on BANNER rules. The only way to ensure that each degree program is correct in the online application is to go and test the application from a student's view. Dr. Spencer urged Graduate Council members to ensure that attention is paid to the survey and online application testing. She stressed the importance of knowing what students will see when they apply to a program. A test site will be available where representatives from each department can go in and "test" the online application for their particular programs.

Dr. Wise raised a question regarding the possibility of students being enrolled in two programs at the same time. Ms. Forest Sparks, manager of Graduate Admissions in the Office of Graduate Studies, confirmed that students can be enrolled in dual degree status which requires application to both degree programs, plus a form that asks the student to designate the primary and the secondary degree program.

Dr. Wise voiced his concern regarding our bifurcating system for graduate student applications. Students apply not knowing that the program to which they are applying does not really match their research interest, when another department might have exactly what the student is looking for. However, the students do not have enough information when they make application and the departments are not aware of a student's interest until they receive the screening packet. At that time, the department can forward the application to a more appropriate department but then the student will be required to make application again.

Discussion followed regarding minimizing confusion for students who apply online.

Dr. Spencer agreed that the application process bifurcates and stated that now is a good time to correct anything since everyone is looking at the electronic application anyway. She asked Dr. Boyle and Dr. Wise to join her in a

subcommittee that will investigate these issues. Dr. Spencer stated that she will set a meeting date and invite Information Technology Services (ITS).

## 5. New Business

### a) Leadership program opportunities for graduate students (handout)

Dr. Cade Smith, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs and Director of the Appalachian Leadership Honors Program, presented the following overview:

The graduate component of the leadership program has been the slowest to develop because there was a lot of concern that graduate students may become distracted if the component was modeled like the one for undergraduates. Consequently, a different approach is needed to properly involve graduate students, and the details of this approach are still evolving. Presently, a conference approach is being pursued that would serve a limited number of graduate students. We are currently working with Dr. Person and the Graduate Student Association on refining these ideas. The focus will be on giving these students a chance to learn and reflect without distracting them from their primary purpose. In addition, we want to provide an opportunity to connect with leaders in their chosen field seminar by bringing speakers to campus.

Dr. Smith asked whether Graduate Council had any questions regarding the graduate component of the leadership program.

Dr. Peter Rabideau stated that he did not anticipate any problems for graduate students in fields such as political science or any field that ties nicely into leadership. However, a hardcore research chemist may have a problem with a student who is spending a lot of time taking courses or doing a lot of things in something other than chemistry.

Dr. Spencer asked for additional comment and/or questions. She stated that the conference approach for the graduate component of the leadership program seems to be a good idea.

Dr. Jerry Gilbert stated that he sent to all the department heads a correction regarding the recent Reflector article about the leadership minor. The article implied that a student had to be a freshman or a transfer student to have a leadership minor, but the fact is that any undergraduate student can have a leadership minor.

Dr. Smith briefly explained the philosophy of leadership. For undergraduates, leadership is an exercise in human development. Leadership is a universal attribute that comes in many different flavors, different packages, and encompasses a wide variety of personalities, skills and ambitions. The Appalachian Leadership Honors Program has a great diversity of students, with

majors ranging from sports communication to aerospace engineering and ACT scores ranging from 17 to 35. However, all students share three attributes – they are rock-solid people, they have a keen sense of responsibility, and they are willing to work hard.

Dr. Spencer stated that the College of Business and Industry is one of those areas where leadership is important and they have a graduate level leadership course in the MBA program. She inquired whether it would be possible to involve business graduate students in the organization process of graduate leadership conferences.

Dr. Smith acknowledged his firm belief in resource awareness and establishing good working relationships on a broad scale, so that skills and resources can be shared.

Dr. Hosie asked how graduate students are being recruited for the leadership minor. Dr. Smith answered that those details are still being worked out. A meeting is scheduled for March 1, 2007, where these issues will be discussed.

Dr. Smith estimated that the core of the graduate leadership program will consist of approximately 20 students. He raised the question of how to integrate international students in the leadership graduate program since over 85% of international students are graduate students.

Discussion followed regarding the primary purpose for graduate students. Dr. Rabideau stated that scholarship is the primary purpose for a graduate student. However, for many students, components such as leadership can be integrated.

Dr. Smith invited Dr. Spencer to be on the subcommittee led by Dr. Person and attend the meeting at 2 p.m. on March 1, 2007, at 112 Allen Hall.

b) Clarification of the Electronic Thesis/Dissertation Rights and Permission Form (Handout)

Dr. Gilbert explained that he invited Dr. Keith Mead from the Chemistry department. Dr. Spencer asked Dr. Mead to speak concerning this agenda item.

Dr. Mead explained that Dr. Philip Oldham, Dean of Arts and Sciences, received an email from a Penn State University official alerting us about a possible conflict with the release of electronic theses and dissertations. The American Chemical Society (ACS) has a policy that once a paper is published in one of their journals, the author must sign a copyright saying that he/she cannot publish that work in another publication. However, ACS considers the public dissemination of a thesis or dissertation containing that work as publication. Therefore, if ACS publishes a student's paper, and the student's thesis/dissertation is available electronically to the public, the student will have infringed on the copyright of the ACS. Conversely, if a student discloses that his or her thesis/dissertation has been released electronically and then tries to submit a paper on that topic to ACS,

ACS would not accept a paper for publication. While ACS has put up with this situation for a few years, they have now made it clear that they will start to enforce their copyright policy.

Dr. Mead stated that he would like some clarification on the electronic thesis/dissertation rights and permission form. He pointed out that the form does not provide an option for the student to prevent the public electronic release of the thesis/dissertation. He suggested that a fourth option to that effect be added to the form that allows students to prevent release.

Dr. Rabideau asked how this relates to the fact that a person can purchase a copy of a dissertation. It was determined purchasing a dissertation from a distributor is permissible by ACS. However, ACS has specific concerns regarding the electronic dissemination of dissertations to the public.

Dr. Wise asked why Alternative Number 3 on the Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Rights and Permission Form (*Prohibit publication of the entire work or any part of that work*) would not satisfy Dr. Mead's concern.

Ms. June Schmidt stated her opinion that Alternative 3 would be an unnecessary restriction because Alternative Number 2 could be expanded to read:

*Restrict the entire work to Mississippi State University and patrons of its libraries, including interlibrary sharing for a period of:  
1 year \_\_\_\_\_ 2 years \_\_\_\_\_ 3 years \_\_\_\_\_ always \_\_\_\_\_. During the restricted period, only those individuals with current MSU NetId's or those using a computer with an MSU IP address can access these documents. After the selected time has passed the ETD will be released worldwide.*

Discussion followed regarding the position of ACS. It was determined that ACS is strengthening its position in light of electronic submissions that become available on the internet.

Ms. Schmidt pointed out that the MSU intranet is not publicly available like the internet; it is protected with MSU NetId and password.

Dr. Boyle asked how other institutions handle this issue. Ms. Schmidt stated that most libraries considered the ACS requirements to be unnecessarily restrictive.

Discussion followed about the application of the restrictions to dissertations or to manuscripts. Dr. Rabideau stated that there seems to be ambiguity and that Graduate Council needs to be sure there is a clear understanding regarding any required restrictions.

Dr. Roger King pointed out that the whole issue is larger than ACS alone because the shift to publish electronically also implies a shift in how fees are collected.

Many publications now sell electronic licenses to their material, and they may be afraid that libraries are giving out the same material at no cost.

Dr. Spencer suggested a new committee but Ms. Schmidt suggested that she first call and find out what other libraries are doing. Ms. Schmidt also stated that this is a tremendous issue in terms of open access initiatives mandated by federal legislation which in essence states that if research is federally funded, the research should be publicly accessible.

Ms. Schmidt suggested that Alternative # 3 be discarded because Alternative # 2 in the draft form addresses the issue as long as it is expanded to include the wording of “always” or “indefinitely” as a choice for the students.

Discussion ensued whether any work should be restricted from publication. Should a public university accept academic work that cannot be published and, therefore, does not add to the body of knowledge? It was determined that this philosophical question should be discussed at a later date.

Dr. Boyle stated that he was in favor of open access and against any restrictions unless there were compelling reasons for such a measure.

Discussion followed about how Graduate Council should proceed. Graduate Council decided to vote on the draft Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Rights and Permission form.

Dr. Wise made a motion to approve the Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Rights and Permission Form with modifications as follows: Add a choice of always/indefinitely to Alternative # 2, strike Alternative # 3 altogether, and renumber Alternative # 4 to Alternative # 3. Dr. Donald Jackson seconded the motion.

Motion passed with one dissenting vote.

Ms. Rita Burrell added that the form needs to include Educational Specialist's Thesis under Document Type because some Educational Specialist students complete a thesis.

c) Distance learning for Ph.D. and Master's with thesis option in the College of Engineering

Dr. Chamblee explained that two distance learning program proposals in Industrial Engineering had been tabled at the last UCCC meeting because the proposals did not address how thesis (8000 level) and dissertation (9000 level) hours would be completed in these programs. This is the first time that research degrees are being offered via distance learning. However, the proposals do not specify how research hours would be handled, and the UCCC committee wants

Graduate Council to set policy before voting on the proposals. The question is whether Graduate Council will allow research hours for theses and dissertations to be obtained via distance education.

Dr. King stated that the Bagley College of Engineering has been offering these degree programs for some time now in Industrial Engineering and in collaboration with other entities, for example in the Corps of Engineers in Vicksburg . However, the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning Board (IHL) started to regulate unconventional degree programs and as a consequence, the two distance learning proposals for the Ph.D. and the M.S. in Industrial Engineering were submitted to UCCC for approval. Students who participate in these programs have the same requirements as students who are on campus. If research is involved, the student's graduate committee will determine whether the research site is acceptable and conducive to the type of research that is being proposed. Dr. King reiterated that the degree programs really did not change, but offering them under distance education will enable MSU to offer degree programs to a much wider audience.

Discussion followed regarding the question of whether a student should be allowed to earn a Ph.D. degree without ever setting foot on campus. Dr. Rabideau cited an article in the Chronicle of Higher Education that suggests the value perception of a Ph. D. degree earned through distance education is not as high as for a conventionally earned doctorate degree. Does Graduate Council want a quality Ph.D. program online and will we be able to offer one?

Dr. Chamblee restated the issue at hand. How will research hours be handled for the two proposed degree programs? UCCC wants to know how to address research hours for future distance learning program proposals. Ms. Burrell mentioned that the issue seems to be with semantics since nothing really has changed with the degree programs that are already being offered.

Dr. King pointed out that four colleges, (Arts & Sciences, Business & Industry, Engineering and Education) are working on a joint policy for distance education because the issue is really an academic one. Dr. Spencer stated that the issue will be revisited during the next Graduate Council meeting, after the colleges have a chance to meet. Graduate Council can vote on a proposed policy at that time.

Dr. King pointed out that the Bagley College of Engineering will not admit any more students into Campus 5 programs that are not approved because many problems have been discovered. Ms. Burrell pointed out that the Academic Outreach and Continuing Education (AOCE) website lists very confusing information that looks as though it originates from the Bagley College of Engineering. However, Bagley College of Engineering does not create or maintain that website and is working to obtain approval rights before any information is published.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

The next Graduate Council meeting will be held on March 23, 2007, at 1:30 p.m., in the Conference Room at 611 Allen Hall.