

Graduate Council Minutes
Mississippi State University
2001-2002

NUMBER: 1

DATE: August 24, 2001

PRESENT: John Boyle, Chair; S. Bullington; D. Hare; R. Harkess; T. Hosie; R. Jenkins; E. Milam; J. Miller; K. Paul; W. Person; L. Reinschmeidt; G. Rent; M. Razzaghi for R. Shivaji; C. Sides; S. Watson; C. Wang; D. Welch.

ABSENT: R. Altenkirch, F. Coleman, G. Dunaway, S. Schoenholtz, B. Spencer, and C. Taylor.

1. Dr. John Boyle called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in room 611 Allen Hall.
2. Dr. Boyle welcomed all new and returning members of the Graduate Council to the meeting. Each member stated his or her name and department.
3. Dr. Boyle distributed a list of all Graduate Council members, comprised of all voting and non-voting members. He also distributed a list of the meeting dates for the remainder of 2001.
4. The minutes of the May 25, 2001 meeting of the Graduate Council were considered. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes.
5. There was no report from the University Committee on Courses and Curricula.
6. The only item of old business was a tabled request for a program modification of Master's and Specialist's degree in Educational Leadership from the Department of Educational Leadership in the College of Education. Dr. Boyle reported that the request has been withdrawn and will not be considered by the Graduate Council.
7. Dr. William A. Person reported that the Office of Graduate Studies (OGS) had completed several activities over the summer. These were:
 - The AGEM Summer Graduate Bridge Program, in which ten students participated and nine of which completed the program. The program focused on strategies for success in graduate education.
 - The International TA Workshop included 133 participants. Of this number, 85 students completed their certification. The remaining students will be enrolled in the fall remedial course under Dr. Marion Couvillion.
 - In the general TA workshop, a total of 260 domestic and international students

participated.

- Dr. Person gave a brief presentation to the academic department heads in which several OGS policies and procedures were discussed on August 14, 2001.
 - The New Graduate Student Orientation and Fair was held in conjunction with the Mitchell Memorial Library. There were 221 new, graduate students that participated in the event.
 - In May, OGS reported 102 doctoral degrees awarded for the 2000-2001 academic year; however, the actual number was 99 doctoral graduates. According to SREB policy, an institution must have 100 doctoral graduates to be classified as a Level I institution; however, SREB policy also states that the trend must be continuous for three years to affect an institution's status; therefore, Mississippi State University will remain a Doctoral Level I institution.
 - According to fourth day data from the University Registrar, fall graduate enrollment has increased. It was suggested, and Dr. Person agreed, that the Office of Graduate Studies would identify which of the new graduate students are in doctoral programs, so the University can get an idea of the number of doctoral students in the pipeline with regard to maintaining SREB Level I status.
 - Registration is still open, but a \$50 per course fee must be paid to add a course after August 24, 2001 and through August 31, 2001. A \$50 per course drop fee has also been added, which must be paid for courses dropped without a grade after August 31, 2001. The intent of these new fees is to encourage students to be more deliberate in planning their schedules.
 - Requests for proposals to obtain Recruitment Assistance Grant (RAG) funds will be sent out September 4, 2001. Only one application from each department will be considered and results will be announced by November 1, 2001.
 - The GAANN fellowship program has begun with three fellows in the Department of Chemistry, who are receiving \$20,000 per year in addition to an \$10,854 institutional allowance per fellow. Engineering Physics has one internal fellow in place, at the regular GAANN rate of \$18,000 per year. There are five fellowships available per department, all of which will be filled as soon as possible.
 - OGS will be working with the Department of Mathematics and the College of Engineering to develop GAANN proposals to be submitted by December 15, 2001 to the U.S. Department of Education for their consideration.
 - OGS is conducting interviews for a part-time Administrative Assistant I position, which they hope to have filled next week.
8. Stevie Watson, President of the Graduate Student Association (GSA), reported that on September 15, 2001, the GSA will host their 2nd Annual Fall Function from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the MSU Drill Field. Stevie Watson requested that the members of the Graduate Council inform students of the event. Flyers and letters are being sent to inform the Graduate Coordinators as well. The GSA has proposed having a new award added to the Graduate Assistant Awards, which would be the Outstanding Graduate Student Association Member of the Year Award. The GSA has initiated a request to the Career Center that

they consider hosting an employment fair with businesses that are specifically interested in hiring students with graduate degrees, as opposed to the current system in place, which predominantly targets bachelor's degree candidates.

9. As an item of old business and for information purposes, Dr. Boyle provided a summary of the activities of the Graduate Council for 2000-2001. Dr. Boyle requested Council members communicate to him any modifications to the summary.
10. As an item of new business, Dr. Boyle distributed a list of several items he thought the Graduate Council should consider this year. Included on the list were:
 - According to SACS policy, all academic units must publish in the *Graduate Bulletin* any and all special or unique requirements for completion of their degree programs.
 - The university's residency requirement is out of compliance with SACS policy due to our distance learning programs.

Dr. Rent stated that SACS would need to be consulted to find out if their requirement is going to be brought up to date with the current trends in education, which would mean that the university would be in compliance. Dr. Rent agreed to contact SACS. Dr. Rent stated that an additional SACS criterion is that all services available to on campus students must also be available to distance students. Dr. Rent stated that the Graduate Educational Programs Committee of the Self-Study Steering Committee will be looking very closely at this policy and because of this, he advised that the Graduate Council delay consideration until a draft of the self-study report is published.

11. Dr. Boyle requested that the Council consider discussing the following items at subsequent meetings this year:
 - General requirements for master's degree programs
 - Course requirements for doctoral programs
 - Responsible departments for interdisciplinary programs
 - Re-examination of minimum standards for continuation of graduate enrollment
 - Permitting colleges and programs to set their own minimum standards for continued enrollment, as requested by the Provost
 - The creation of a special non-degree category of post-graduate student
 - The maximum number of committees a faculty member could successfully chair, as requested by Dr. Rent.

Dr. Boyle stated that the first two items would be on the agenda at the next meeting.

12. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting at 2:45 p.m