

**GRADUATE COUNCIL
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY**

NUMBER: 6

DATE: February 25, 2000

PRESENT: K. Anderson; D. Huddleston (for S. Bridges), M. Burnham, A. Friend, L. Hanson, R Jenkins, T. Kohers, J. Miller, S. Miller, D. Monts, L. Mueller (for F. Coleman), W. Person, L. Reinschmiedt, R. Prescott for (G. Rent), C. Sides, J. Sumrall, M. Thorne, D. Welch, J. Wesley, N. Younan.

ABSENT: R. Altenkirch, J. Boyle, L. Crumpton-Young, R. Harkess, J. Inmon, C. Taylor.

Dr. Alex Friend called the February meeting of the Graduate Council to order at 1:30 in 611 Allen. Dr. John Boyle, Chair of the Council, appointed Dr. Friend because of his absence and the absence of Dr. Susan Bridges, Vice Chair of the Council.

Minutes

The Revised minutes from the February 11, 2000 meeting were presented. Dr. Friend stated that the minutes had been revised and asked for everyone to take a minute to look at them and make known any adjustments.

Dr. Ted Kohers expressed concern about the last sentence under the section of Old Business in paragraph three of the February 11, 2000 minutes regarding a Graduate Council's mission.

Dr. Friend suggested that the Council table approval of the minutes and asked for any other concerns. Dr. Mike Thorne said he had some editorial concerns. He was asked to leave those changes with Ms. Kathy Anderson.

University Committee on Courses and Curriculum-Report (UCCC)

Dr. Friend introduced Dr. Garry Smith, Head of the Department of Management and Information Systems, and Dr. Mary Jones, Associate Professor of Management and Information Systems. Dr. Smith and Dr. Jones were present to answer questions concerning the proposal from their department to offer a Master of Science degree program in Information Systems. If approved, this program will replace the existing Master of Science in Business Administration degree in Information Systems. Within a year, a proposal will be submitted to the UCCC to delete the current program which has thesis and non-thesis options. However, students in the current program will be allowed to complete their established programs of study or they may elect to transfer to the new program.

The proposed program is a non-thesis program consisting of 30 graduate hours. It is designed to prepare students to become information system professionals, who can successfully develop, acquire, and integrate information technology across level and functions of a firm in the continually changing global business environment.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the proposal.

A question was raised about a proposal for a degree program receiving approval from the Board of Trustees of Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) before being approved by the Graduate Council and the UCCC. A lengthy discussion ensued on what program had recently been approved by the IHL. It was agreed that it was not the program that the Council just approved.

Report From Graduate Studies

Dr. William Person informed the Council that he had received some of their suggestions pertaining to the GradAdvantage web site for the online application process. The Office of Graduate Studies is in the process of coordinating those changes with Petersons while the application is in the staging site.

On behalf of the Graduate Student Association, Dr. Person asked for support for the TA/RA Awards Banquet. The banquet will be held on March 24, 2000. Seventeen students, combined, have been nominated for the TA and RA awards. Dr. Walter N. Taylor will chair the TA Awards selection committee and Dr. Dwayne Wise will chair the RA Awards selection committee.

Dr. Person passed out information on the Alliance for Graduate Education in Mississippi (AGEM), an National Science Foundation (NSF) funded program in collaboration with the University of Southern Mississippi, Jackson State University, and the University of Mississippi. Mississippi State's funding for the program (external and internal) is \$200,000.00 per year for five years. This is an effort to attract outstanding students in math, science, and engineering to Mississippi State University and the other doctoral degree granting institutions in the state.

The revised edition of the **Graduate Assistant Handbook** is in print and should be ready soon. Dr. Person thanked Ms. Jimmie Wesley for her hard work in coordinating the completion of this project.

Dr. Sam Miller asked why there is not a service assistant award along with the RA and TA awards. Dr. Person said that for a long time there was only one TA award and that progress has been made with the additional awards that are being given this year. The long-range plan is to recognize students in all three categories.

Graduate Student Association (GSA)

Mr. Matthew Burnham announced the Awards Banquet on March 24, 2000 at 6:00 p.m. He thanked the Council for looking into the activity fee and acknowledging the GSA's concerns. Mr. Burnham expressed his concern about having more awards for graduate students, and also increasing the number of students involved in the GSA. This year the GSA has approximately 100 active members compared to a much smaller number of active members last year.

New nominations for GSA officers for next year will be open until March 1, 2000. The new officers will not be announced at the banquet as planned because the SA and GSA elections are being held on March 30, 2000. Dr. Frank Saal, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences will be the guest speaker at the awards banquet; his topic will be "Excellence in Graduate Education."

Dr. Friend told the Council about an email that Mr. Burnham gave him about students complaining about parking fees. He assured Mr. Burnham that this issue would be addressed in an organized fashion.

Old Business

Data from other universities:

Dr. Person did not bring the chart of data from other universities to this meeting, but sent it to Dr. Boyle for his review. Dr. Friend said that we would handle this at the next meeting.

Comments on the web site have already been addressed; Dr. Person encouraged everyone to send in their information as soon as possible.

Subcommittee

In lieu of a committee report, Dr. Kohers led a discussion on procedures to assure compliance with graduate policies and standards. Some of the major areas addressed included the following:

- 1.) Who should be responsible for monitoring the dissertation development? (i.e., contents; quality of the proposal presentation and final defense, etc.)?
- 2.) Should an outside graduate faculty member be assigned to observe the preliminary doctoral examination and final dissertation defense?
- 3.) Who should be responsible for monitoring the qualifications of graduate faculty?
- 4.) Should the dissertation defense schedule be widely publicized to allow for more graduate faculty participation? If so, how should it be publicized?
- 5.) Who should be responsible for monitoring programs of study?
- 6.) Who should monitor whether proper standards are adhered to for the selection and assignment of faculty to teach graduate courses?

New Business

Dr. Friend suggested that the Council wait until Dr. Rent is present to discuss the distance learning and residency requirements.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35.