

Graduate Council

Number: 7

Date: March 26, 2004

Present: J. Boyle, P. Bonfanti, R. Burrell, F. Coleman, D. Hare, M. Herring, T. Hosie, J. Gilbert, E. Milam, S. Pittman (for L. Barrow), L. Reinschmiedt, R. Shivaji, C. Sides, B. Spencer, D. Wolfe, M. Wolfe (for L. Crittenden).

Absent: S. Bridges, S. Byrd, L. D'Abramo, G. Dunaway, J. Herring (for K. Brabham), S. Jobe, W. Person, J. Pote, C. Wang, D. Wise.

Special Guests: Dr. Mark Binkley, Geosciences; Dr. Peter Messer, History

1. Dr. Tom Hosie, Chair of the Graduate Council, called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. in Room 611 Allen.
2. Dr. John Boyle noted correction to the February 27, 2004, minutes, (Page 3 Item 7a. modification in paragraph four, the University should reduce the 50% requirement, instead of College of Engineering). On a motion by Dr. Boyle, and seconded by Dr. Ed Milam, the Council approved the February 27, 2004, minutes with corrections.
3. Report from University Committee on Courses and Curricula (UCCC).
 - a. Dr. Mark Binkley appeared before the Council to address questions and concerns regarding proposed modifications in the Master of Science in Geosciences.

“The proposal is to modify the existing degree by adding a concentration in Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The proposal was submitted along with eight course addition proposals. The eight courses, along with existing courses within Geosciences and other departments at MSU, will provide students with an excellent education in GIS. The department of Geosciences has worked for over two years in developing and implementing this program of study. There have been numerous meetings between faculty in Geosciences and faculty from other departments. Most of these departments have submitted letters of support. No additional support will be needed to implement this program of study.”

Discussion followed. Dr. Lynn Reinschmiedt asked where the concentrations are listed, how the students/other departments/other universities would find this information in order to advise students properly. Discussion followed. Dr. Boyle called for a motion to accept. Dr. Dwight Hare seconded the motion. Dr. Reinschmiedt noted the need for more description, as included at the undergraduate level, as well as a clear identification of how many hours and courses are needed for each concentration. Discussion followed regarding course description and lack of guidelines regarding the concentration.

Dr. Binkley readdressed the Council indicating the current modification allows the student more flexibility. Dr. Hosie called for a vote; the motion did not carry. (Yes – 2, No – 4). Dr. Binkley was asked to have all concentrations approved and add the concentrations to the Graduate Bulletin.

- b. Dr. Peter Messer, Department of History, appeared before the Council to address questions and concerns regarding proposed modifications in the Master of Arts in History.

“The proposal is to limit the major fields available to master’s degree students to United States, European, Latin American, African, Asian, or World History. Require a written comprehensive examination and an oral defense of all students seeking a master’s degree in history; require students pursuing the non-thesis option for the master’s degree to take a minor field from a geographic region separate from their major fields or from a discipline other than history.”

Discussion followed. Dr. Milam moved for a motion to accept the proposal, Dr. Boyle seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried.

4. Report from Graduate Studies.

a. Dr. Person submitted the following written report.

1. A newly created Teaching Assistant Workshop Advisory Council has been named. The primary purpose of the council will be to advise the director of graduate studies on all aspects of the international and general workshops, including planning, development, articulation, and evaluation. The initial meeting of the council has been scheduled for April 21, 2004, at 2:00 p.m. in 611 Allen Hall. Members of the council include the following:

Steve Bullard, Forest Resources; Bill Chapman, Electrical and Computer Engineering; Jason Crittenden, Continuing Education; Burnette Hamil, Curriculum and Instruction; Corlis Johnson, Mathematics and Statistics; Berry Lott, Poultry Science; Cathy Sides, Office of Graduate Studies; Barbara Spencer, Business and Industry; James Swindell, Office of Graduate Studies; Marianne Ulmer, Communications; Molly Watkins, ESL Center; and Dwayne Wise, Biological Sciences.

2. Graduate Council members are encouraged to attend the GSA Research Symposium on April 1st, 2004, and the Graduate Assistant Awards Banquet on April 14, 2004. A total of 26 graduate assistants have been nominated to be considered for the five awards (two GTA; two GRA; one GSA).
3. Sherry Jobe has resigned her position as Accounting Assistant III, effective April 2, 2004. The search for her replacement will begin immediately.

5. Report from Graduate Student Association.

There was no report from the Graduate Student Association.

6. Old Business

- a. Dr. Hosie called on the Council to review the memorandum from Dr. Person regarding the SACS graduate curriculum and MSU’s response requested by the Council in consideration of the College of Engineering’s proposal to require 15 semester credit hours at the 8000 level on a 33 semester credit hour master’s program of study. Discussion followed.

Dr. Boyle withdrew the motion to reduce the 50% requirement of coursework on a master’s or educational specialist degree. Discussion followed.

The Council would propose requiring at least 15 hours of coursework for a non-thesis or 50% of coursework at 8000 level for thesis.

- b. Dr. Hosie called on the committee reviewing the Modification of Graduate Bulletin and “Not Good Standing.” Dr. Barbara Spencer gave the report stating the issue would be held over to the April 23, 2004, meeting because there was no quorum. Dr. Spencer reported the committee is in

- the process of developing a form for recalculating the graduate GPA and is awaiting input from Mr. Butch Stokes, Registrar's Office.
- c. Dr. Boyle gave a brief summary regarding the Modification to the Graduate Bulletin, referring to the handout at the February 27, 2004, meeting.
 - d. Dr. Phil Bonfanti, International Services Office addressed the Council regarding the decrease in international graduate applications for fall 2004. There was a 35% decrease in international applications, most of which affect the College of Engineering. Dr. Bonfanti referred to a recent survey from the Council of Graduate Schools reflecting that 90% of U.S. graduate schools reported a decrease in international graduate student applications. The average decline was 32%, which reflects that the decreasing number at MSU is similar to that at peer institutions. Eighty percent of the institutions reported a decrease in international graduate applications in the engineering field and 65% in the physical sciences. Dr. Bonfanti referred to another survey done by the American Council of Education, NAFSA, and NASULGC, reporting a national trend in the reduction of graduate international applications. Dr. Bonfanti reported on the enrollment trends in international graduate applications since September 9, 2001. This information will have an impact on graduate assistantships and doctoral graduates. Ms. Diane Wolfe reported that the University of Mississippi, as well as the University of Southern Mississippi, is experiencing a decrease in enrollment/application numbers as well.
 - e. Dr. Jerry Gilbert reported that the Faculty Senate passed two resolutions; (1) the minimum graduate assistantship level be raised, and (2) recommended anyone on graduate assistantship receive a full tuition waiver to include fees. The monetary impact to the university would be \$2.4 million dollars per year. Discussion followed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.