

Graduate Council Minutes
Mississippi State University

NUMBER: 9

DATE: May 26, 2000

PRESENT: John Boyle, Chair; P. Bonfanti, M. Burnham, G. Dunaway, A. Friend, L. Hanson, R. Harkess, T. Hosie, K. Kelly, T. Kohers, J. Miller, D. Monts, David Nowak for F. Coleman, W. Person, L. Reinschmiedt, G. Rent, C. Sides, J. Sumrall, D. Welch, J. Wesley, D. Wolfe, N. Younan.

ABSENT: R. Altenkirch, S. Bridges, R. Jenkins, S. Miller, C. Taylor, M. Thorne, L. Crumpton-Young.

1. Dr. John Boyle called the meeting to order and welcomed Dr. Tom Hosie, Professor and Head of the Department of Counselor Education and Educational Psychology, and Dr. Greg Dunaway, Associate Professor of Sociology, whose terms on the Council begin July 1, 2000. Dr. Boyle explained that the Graduate Council normally does not meet in the months of June and July unless an urgent matter develops. Dr. Boyle stated that during the summer he will circulate the voting procedures to the Council Members along with a summary of the Council's activities for the 1999-2000 academic year.
2. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the minutes of the Graduate Council meeting held on April 28, 2000, with the addition of the word "official" to the motion to require transcripts for admission of Unclassified students.
3. Dr. Boyle presented the report from the University Committee on Courses and Curricula (UCCC). Included in the report were proposals to: add a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Applied Economics through both the Department of Agricultural Economics and the College of Business and Industry; add a Master of Arts in Applied Anthropology from the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work; and add a Master of Science degree in Workforce Educational Leadership from the Department of Technology and Education.

A motion was made and seconded to open for discussion the proposals to establish the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Applied Economics. Dr. Boyle stated that the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) approved the

proposal to establish the Ph.D. in Applied Economics in February 2000. Dr. George Rent explained that the window of opportunity for approval offered by IHL differs from year to year and there is no ruling that states the proposals must be approved on campus prior to being submitted to the IHL. Dr. Rent stated that the programs must be approved at all campus levels and that the President has the final authority in implementation. A motion was made and seconded, to approve the two proposals to offer the Ph.D. Degree in Applied Economics. The motion passed unanimously after some discussion, which clarified that admission to the economics emphasis for the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Business Administration (formerly the Doctor of Business Administration degree) has been suspended.

A motion was made, and seconded to open for discussion the proposal to add a Master of Arts degree in Applied Anthropology from the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work. Dr. Boyle stated that the proposal includes two courses that do not currently exist and asked what would be the impact on the program if the courses are not approved. Dr. Dunaway stated that since the faculty are already available to teach the courses and since there is no duplication of any other program, the Department does not anticipate any problem in gaining approval to offer the courses.

Dr. Boyle asked Dr. Rent about the administration's position on the cost of new programs since this proposal requests additional funding and should the Council be concerned with funding. Dr. Rent stated that funding is an administrative issue and that the Graduate Council approves the concept of a new program. Dr. Boyle called for a vote and the proposal passed unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to open for discussion the proposal to add a Master of Science degree in Workforce Educational Leadership from the Department of Technology and Education. After some discussion concerning the cost associated with establishing a new program, Dr. Boyle asked for a vote and the proposal passed unanimously.

4. Dr. William Person distributed, as a matter of information, copies of the UCCC report. Dr. Person stated that the GradAdvantage package is very close to being implemented. The current paper application is being updated in order to be consistent with the GradAdvantage web page. A draft of the domestic application has been transmitted to Peterson's and a draft of the international application will be submitted next week. The MSU GradAdvantage committee has had several meetings and a teleconference was conducted with the GradAdvantage officials to discuss the details of the web applications. Peterson's has assured us that as soon as they receive a draft of the international application that it will be put in place. Dr. Person stated that the web applications should be up and running in two to three weeks.

Dr. Person informed the Council that the Alliance for Graduate Education in Mississippi (AGEM) project involving the University of Mississippi, the University of Southern Mississippi, Jackson State University, and Mississippi State University is

now receiving applications for doctoral scholars in science, math, and engineering. There should be two or three AGEM students on the MSU campus next year. Plans are underway to advertise internally for a local AGEM coordinator who will be either a part time faculty or staff member. The state coordinator is located at the University of Mississippi. MSU's funding is \$100,000 per year from the National Science Foundation and our matched funding is \$100,000.

5. Mr. Matthew Burnham thanked the Council members for their support for the Graduate Student Association (GSA) during the past year and expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve on the Council. Mr. Burnham announced that the GSA officers for the 2000-2001 academic year are as follows: President, Carrie Weaver; Vice-President, Becky Fiorillo; Secretary, Jennie Pitts; and Treasurer, Michael Rybolt. Mr. Burnham informed the Council that the GSA officers will hold a transitional meeting on June 2, 2000, at 8:00 a.m.
6. Dr. Boyle called for nominations for Chairman of the Graduate Council for the 2000-2001 academic year. There has been one nomination: Dr. John Boyle. Dr. Boyle suggested that voting be done by email to Dr. Person who will collate the votes and/or write ins. Dr. Boyle also suggested that the election of a co-chair be held in the fall when the new Council members will be present.
7. Dr. Joe Sumrall, Chair of the Graduate Council Subcommittee on Unclassified Students distributed a memo listing the Subcommittee's recommendations in the form of motions. The first two motions were passed at the Council meeting held on April 28, 2000. They were: 1) to require that transcripts showing a bachelor's degree has been awarded must be submitted with the unclassified application, and 2) that current and retired faculty or those with equivalent faculty status from Mississippi State University will not be required to submit a transcript in order to enroll in a graduate course as an unclassified student. These two policies will be effective January 2001.

Motions 3A, 3B, and 4 are as follows:

- Motion 3A – Unclassified graduate students will be required to declare a “college of intent”. As such each of the respective deans would receive enrollment forms, grades, etc., on those enrolled in their colleges.
- Motion 3B – Colleges/Departments will be given authority to:
 - a. Set minimal QPA entrance requirements for unclassified applications.
 - b. Develop a policy for dismissal of unclassified students
 - c. Develop a policy for unclassified students to make lateral moves within a College.
- Motion 4 – Colleges/Departments will be given the authority to identify courses in which unclassified students are prohibited from registering without a departmental override via Banner.

After a lengthy discussion a motion was made and seconded that a block be placed on all courses which would require an unclassified student to obtain an individual

departmental override for each course the student wishes to take. The motion passed with one dissenting vote. This action will be effective January 2001

8. Dr. Rent reported that the Associate Deans' Council has not had enough time to consider the Distance Learning and Residence requirement issue. This issue should appear on the Associate Deans' Council's agenda during the Fall Semester.
9. Dr. Boyle distributed a memo from Dr. Person recommending that the policy pertaining to English as a Second Language (ESL) and TOEFL scores be modified to remove the option for international students who enroll in ESL courses upon their initial conditional admission and matriculation in graduate studies at MSU to retake the TOEFL, either institutional or national. This will allow students to benefit from the program and improve their communication skills. Mr. Phil Bonfanti, Coordinator of the American Language and Culture Program was present to answer questions concerning this recommendation. After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made to approve the proposal. The motion passed with one dissenting vote and two abstentions.
10. Ms. Diane Wolfe, Associate Director of Admissions distributed copies of the admissions policy that appears in the *Graduate Bulletin* along with recommendations for clarification/modification of this policy. The current policy states that to qualify for regular admission a student must have "a minimum undergraduate grade point average on the last two years of undergraduate academic work of 2.75 on a 4.00 scale and a 3.0 on all graduate work already completed". Ms. Wolfe recommended the following:

Applicants may meet the minimum academic requirements for "regular" admission by:

1. Having a 2.75 grade point average on last two years (approximately 60-70 semester hours) of undergraduate academic course work completed at a regionally accredited institution, or
2. Having a 2.75 grade point average on a minimum of 30 semester hours undergraduate credit earned at a regionally accredited institution **after** earning the first Bachelor's degree, or
3. Having a 2.75 grade point average on last two years (approximately 60-70 semester hours) of undergraduate academic course work completed at a regionally accredited institution and a 3.0 grade point average on less than 24 hours graduate course work completed at a regionally accredited institution, or
4. Having a 3.0 grade point average on 24 or more graduate hours completed at a regionally accredited institution, or
5. Having earned a Master's degree or higher level degree at a regionally accredited institution.

Ms. Wolfe also recommended to add the following statement to the provisional admission policy: The minimum acceptable undergraduate grade point average for

admission as a provisional student is 2.5. Requests for exceptions to these requirements for either “regular” or “provisional” admission must be made through the academic dean’s office. The appropriate dean must notify the Office of Admissions of this exception in writing. Exceptions will be processed in the Office of Admissions and a copy will be forwarded to the Office of the Provost.

The recommendation was passed unanimously

11. Dr. Boyle distributed copies of the Subcommittee on Compliance’s report that will be considered at the August Meeting.
12. The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.