

**Graduate Council Minutes
Mississippi State University**

Number: 4

Date: November 15, 2002

Present: L. Barrow, P. Bonfanti, J. Boyle, R. Burrell, L. Coats (for D. Hare), E. Milam, W. Person, L. Reinschmiedt, G. Rent, T. Schultz, R. Shivaji, C. Sides, B. Spencer, C. Wang, M. Williams, D. Welch

Absent: S. Bullington, S. Byrd, F. Coleman, G. Dunaway, J. Pote, T. Hosie, D. Wise, D. Wolfe

Special Guest: Ms. Helen Zuercher

1. Dr. John Boyle called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. in the Faculty Lounge of Colvard Student Union.
2. Minutes were corrected to reflect that Dr. Phillip Bonfanti was absent from the October 25, 2002, meeting and that Dr. William A. Person was present. Dr. Tor Schutz made a motion to accept the minutes of October 25, 2002, with noted corrections. Dr. Lynn Reinschmiedt seconded the motion. Minutes were adopted.
3. There was no report from the University Committee on Courses and Curricula (UCCC).
4. Dr. William Person presented the report from the Office of Graduate studies, which included the following:
 - a. ***Graduate Bulletins***

New ***Graduate Bulletins*** have arrived. Ms. Cathy Sides has brought copies for each Graduate Council member.
 - b. McNair Proposal

The Office of Graduate Studies has submitted a McNair Proposal to the U.S. Department of Education. Funding notification will be early next year. Due to the limited funds available for the program, competition will be extremely fierce.
 - c. Graduate Assistant in Areas of National Need (GAANN) Proposals

OGS is preparing proposals for submission in mathematics and statistics, as well as engineering, to the U.S. Department of Education. Deadline for submission is November 22, 2002.

d. Recruitment Assistance Grants

OGS has received Recruitment Assistance Grant proposals from several departments. Review of proposals will begin next week.

e. AGEM 2003 Winter Scholar Symposium

Faculty in the STEM areas have received official letters of invitation. Dr. Person distributed letters of invitation to Graduate Council members. A website, through the OGS website, is available for registration.

5. Dr. Michelle Williams reported the following activities for the Graduate Student Association (GSA):

a. Attendance at the November GSA meeting was good.

b. GSA is working with the Salvation Army for the organization's Christmas Community Service Project.

c. December GSA meeting will be an informal meeting. The group will collect donations for the Community Service Project.

f. The January meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 14, 2003.

6. Items of old business discussed by the Council included the following:

a. ***Graduate Bulletin*** Contradictions and Policy Contradictions

Dr. Boyle distributed final draft of the solution of the 3.0 problem. No grade under "C" will count for graduate credit, but the grade will count toward the GPA. No graduate students will be allowed to enroll in courses carrying pass/fail credit.

Relative to the Qualifying Examination, a student must be enrolled during the semester in which the examination is administered and must have a 3.0 GPA (unchanged). The student must have a 3.0 GPA on all courses included in the Program of Study and a 3.0 GPA on all graduate courses taken after being admitted to the degree program.

Dr. Lynn Reinschmiedt made a motion to accept these modifications; motion was seconded by Dr. Ed Milam. Modifications were approved.

b. The Subcommittee for Review of Penalties for Academic Dishonesty by Graduate Students has developed a draft document. Dr. John Boyle distributed the document. The Council will review the document and e-mail comments and suggestions to the subcommittee, composed of Drs. Tom Hosie, Greg Dunaway,

and Dwayne Wise, in order to discuss the document at the January 17, 2003 meeting.

- c. The third item of old business dealt with the limitations on international students, as part of the Council's quality in graduate studies review. Many international students are having a difficult time in gaining visas to study in the United States. Mrs. Helen Zuercher, MSU International Services Office, presented the Council with current information relative to international students.

-MSU International Services Office enrolled in Student Exchange and Visitor Information System (SEVIS) yesterday. The office will begin working on-line with new students after 1/30/03 and also begin enrolling "old" students. The process will take approximately 30 minutes per student and will include proof of full-time enrollment on all students. ISO must pre-approve international students dropping below 9 hours, and reasons for dropping must be checked against an approved list. It is imperative that international students maintain 9-hour enrollment; level of enrollment is not a factor (i.e., graduate/undergraduate hours), but audit hours probably will not count. Exception is that a Ph.D. student in final semester will not have to carry 9 dissertation hours. Dropping below 9 hours must be reported through SEVIS. SEVIS will monitor physical address of international students. There is a deadline of Fall 03 for enrollment of all international students. Faculty support will be needed in order to enroll all students.

-Financial matters concerning international students on assistantships is an item of interest to most faculty. Most international students hold F-1 status and are issued an I-20. These students must show proof of financial support before students can be issued an I-20. An international student making application for MSU for academic year 2002-2003 must show proof of available resources in the amount of \$23,353 in order to be admitted. This amount includes all cost of living expenses, i.e., food, room, tuition, health insurance, etc. If financial status changes in any way, for example accepting an assistantship, the student must get a new I-20.

-There is difficulty with family of students wanting to immigrate. INS workers must assume that students will want to immigrate, and students must prove that assumption false.

-There are problems in obtaining visas for male students from particular countries now trying to enter the U.S, particularly from Muslim countries. Also, there have been problems with students from Muslim countries returning for a visit being unable to reenter the U.S.

-In addition to routine security checks for entry into the U.S., there is now a National Security Entry/Exit Registration program. This registration program is

in effect for immigrants from Iran, Iraq, Sudan, and Libya. Scrutiny is very high for this group.

-Additional programs for tracking immigrants are also being initiated.

-The following are offered as advice in recruiting an international student: a good website with good information, encourage dialogue (it takes about 2 years to get a student into the system), know why the student wants to come here, have discourse with faculty from other universities, offer grants for competitive assistantships, consider students already in the U.S., look to countries other than China and India, and contact existing programs (e.g., USAID). When recruiting, ask for the Exchange Visitor Program, this is for J-visa (J-1) students and may be easier to obtain due to two-year return requirement in most under-developed countries.

-Practical training opportunities will be viewed more favorably if positioned to follow degree completion.

-There are currently 747 international students enrolled at MSU; approximately 75% of international enrollment is male.

7. Items of New Business introduced by Dr. John Boyle included:

- a. The Council discussed the IHL6 Report and Credit for XXX8000 and 9000 courses. Dr. Doug Richards, Forestry, has expressed concern about reporting requirements on IHL reports not allowing full credit for faculty advising graduate students. Credit activity hours generated do not accurately reflect the number of students advised (i.e., same number of credit hours generated advising one student as generated advising three).

Dr. Rent addressed the issue of distribution of workload. Department heads and their respective deans should determine how credit activity hours are reported.

- b. The Council discussed the issue of a student obtaining a second master's degree in the same major, but with an emphasis in a different area. Nine hours from the first degree will count toward the second degree. Both degrees will carry the same title.

The Council expressed no concern with this issue.

8. Following the distribution of the August 2002 Graduate Council Minutes, Dr. John Boyle has received comments expressing concern that minutes implied there is no policy in place to address academic dishonesty by graduate students. There is a policy in place to address this issue, but the Graduate Council is working to modify this policy.

The January 2003 meeting will focus mainly on the report developed by the Subcommittee on Academic Misconduct by Graduate Students.

There will be no Graduate Council meeting during December 2002, originally scheduled for December 13, which falls on the same day as commencement.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.