

Number: 2

Date: September 24, 2004

Present: L. Barrow, E. Bergiel (for L. Claude), P. Bonfanti, S. Bridges, S. Byrd, R. Burrell, L. Crittenden, L. D'Abramo, C. Forde, J. Gilbert, T. Hosie, W. Person, J. Pote, L. Reinschmiedt, R. Shivaji, B. Spencer, D. Wise, D. Wolfe.

Absent: L. Ballweber, M. Binkley, J. Boyle, F. Coleman, G. Dunaway, R. Taylor, and C. Scanes.

1. Dr. Tom Hosie called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. in 611 Allen.

Dr. Hosie asked the Council members to review the minutes. Dr. Phil Bonfanti sited one correction, page 4, paragraph 3; Strike Dr. Bonfanti will prepare a motion for the September 24, 2004, Graduate Council Meeting. The statement should read as follows: Dr. Bridges made the motion to accept the recommendation. There was no further discussion. Motion carried.

Dr. Dwayne Wise made the motion to accept the minutes as amended. Dr. Lou D'Ambro seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. Report from Graduate Studies

- a. Dr. William A. Person distributed three documents to the Council. The first document contained the final degree count of the degree audit for summer 2004. There were 430 applicants for graduation, with 376 degrees awarded and 54 students redlined – students who did not meet degree requirements. The second handout refers to the on-campus enrollment trend for fall 1988 to fall 2004. Total in 1988 – 2466, and fall 2004 – 2896 (preliminary count from Institutional Research). Enrollment for fall 2004 has increased from fall 2003. Total of 519 minority students, 479 international students, by gender, fulltime and part time. The third document refers to information on doctoral enrollment from fall 1998, through fall 2003. The purpose of this information was to determine the success of graduation rate with doctoral student. There has been an increase in part-time enrollment and a decrease in full-time enrollment of doctoral students.

Dr. Person and Dr. Jonathan Pote met with the Graduate Student Association to gain feedback on graduate studies. Insurance was a concern for graduate students, transportation from the Vet School. Dr. Lynn Reinschmiedt indicated that the reason for transportation issue with the Vet School was lack of participation in the shuttle service. Dr. Reinschmiedt inquired what distinguished part-time from full-time for graduate students. Students enrolled in less than nine hours are considered part-time students. Dr. Pote indicated that most of the part time students are distance learning students.

On September 20, 2004, Drs. Person and Pote met with the Graduate Coordinators; there concerns were low graduate stipends, the university making a commitment to graduate education as a university, helping with the recruitment initiative. Dr. Pote indicated there was concern graduate students fees were higher than the tuition. Dr. Susan Bridges inquired how our stipends compared to our peer institutions. Dr. Pote indicated that various colleges and departments, Engineering and Computer Science, range from very low to very high. Business Teaching Assistantship consists of one number for everyone. The individual colleges set their own priorities.

Dr. Jerry Gilbert indicated that there is a misconception among faculty that there is a graduate teaching assistantship pool. The money historically was appropriated to colleges, at one point; there may have been some equitable distribution among the colleges 30 or 40 years ago. There is no pool now, and no source of money to raise the assistantship stipend. The individual college would have to carve the money out of their own budget.

Dr. Person indicated we currently have 906 assistantships to date. Dr. Dwayne Wise inquired if IHL showed interest in the number student credit hours generated by graduate students. Discussion followed. Dr. Wise asked what are the average hours that a graduate student is enrolled in each semester. The minimum hours for a graduate student is nine hours, maximum possible hours are 13. Discussion followed.

3. Report from Graduate Student Association

Mr. Erich Bergiel, Vice-President for the Graduate Student Association, presented its report. The GSA participated in Bulldog Bash setting up a booth with the student association and handed out information to non-traditional graduate students. The GSA held its first meeting September 8, 2004. The next meeting will be October 13, 2004. The GSA has received the \$10,000 funding from the Student Association.

4. Old Business

Dr. Hosie called on the committee reviewing the Modification of Graduate Bulletin and “Graduate Not Good Standing.” and Petition for Recalculation of Graduate GPA.

Dr. Barbara Spencer gave the committee report. Dr. Spencer has been working with Mr. Butch Stokes, Registrar, which would allow graduate students to flag some courses on their transcripts that would not be calculated in their GPA. The proposed policy listed the following conditions could not be counted: 1) Any courses on your current program of study; 2) Any courses taken while enrolled in our current graduate program even if not counted on the program of study; or 3) Any courses that have counted towards a previously earned degree at MSU.

The committee planned to meet with Mr. Stokes to see if he was in favor of removing the “Graduate Not Good Standing” on the transcript, and Ms. Rita Burrell, Graduate Studies Manager, investigated what other peer institutions were doing.

Ms. Burrell reported that there was insufficient information from other peer institution bulletins. Ms. Burrell informed the Council that The University of Mississippi does show a cumulative GPA, they do not flag or remove any grades from the cumulative total.

Dr. Spencer read an email received from Mr. Stokes indicating that some process was being studied in which the offending courses of whatever semester would be marked so as to not count in the graduate students GPA, this would thereby raise the GPA that the student would clearly be “In good standing” or “Not good standing.” Mr. Stokes believes this would be the proper way to handle this issue, the courses removed from the graduate students GPA would remain on the graduate student’s transcript, but not count in the hours used to compute their GPA “Graduate Good Standing.” He does not want to merely change a students standing on their record while their GPA reflects otherwise. Dr. Gilbert received an email from Dr. John Boyle, asking the Council to consider a limit on the number of courses to be flagged. Discussion followed.

Dr. Lou D’Abramo proposed the Council make a recommendation that the “Not in good standing” be removed. He proposed one resolution would be to have the Program of Study in BANNER. Dr. Hosie –student not having a 3.0 cumulative, the Council could let the student go back and have two to three courses be erased.

Dr. Spencer summarized the discussion by indicating departments would not be calculating the cumulative GPA and not listing “Graduate not good standing” on the student’s graduate transcript. Dr. Bridges approved the recommendation by limiting the student to erase two courses. Discussion followed.

Take cumulative GPA off the transcript and remove “Not in good standing” off the transcript in BANNER Web, departments would still have the GPA in production BANNER, and still have a policy that a graduate student needs a 3.0 to graduate.

Dr. Wise made the motion that the Graduate Council recommends to the Provost that the term “Student not Good Standing and “Graduate Good Standing” be removed from the official transcript along with the cumulative GPA. Dr. Ratnasingham Shivaji seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Motion carried.

5. New Business

Dr. Hosie called on Ms. Burrell to continue with the handout from the February 27, 2004 Graduate Council meeting. Ms. Burrell began by referencing the Graduate Studies Bulletin, Final/Comprehensive Examinations, page 41 and Educational Specialist Degree-Comprehensive Examination-page 46.

Current: Final/Comprehensive Examinations- p. 41

A student must be enrolled during the semester in which the exam is administered, must have a 3.0 GPA and must be within 6 hours of completing the course work.

Proposed change:

A student must be enrolled at *Mississippi State University* during the semester in which the exam is administered, must have a 3.0 GPA *on all courses attempted for graduate credit after being admitted to the degree program (i.e., program and non-program courses)*, and must be within 6 hours of completing course work *not including internship/practicum*.

Dr. Susan Bridges made the motion to accept the proposed change to the Graduate Studies Bulletin for the Final/Comprehensive Examination. Dr. Sylvia Byrd seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Motion carried.

Current: Educational Specialist Degree-Comprehensive Examination-page 46

A student completing the degree must apply for the comprehensive examination in the office of his/her major advisor. A student must be enrolled during the semester in which the exam is administered and must have a 3.0 GPA.

Proposed change:

Student completing the degree must apply for the comprehensive examination in the office of *the* major advisor. A student must be enrolled at *Mississippi State University* during the semester in which the exam is administered and must have a 3.0 GPA *on all courses attempted for graduate credit after being admitted to the degree program (i.e., program and non-program courses)*.

Current: Doctor of Philosophy-Preliminary/Comprehensive Examination –page 47

The preliminary/comprehensive examination for admission to candidacy for the degree may be taken only after the student has completed or is within 6 hours of completing the course work, completed the research skills requirements, and has the dissertation topic approved.

Proposed:

The *comprehensive/preliminary* examination for admission to candidacy for the degree may be taken only after the student has completed or is within 6 hours of completing the course work, not including internship and/or practicum completed **the research skills requirements (if applicable) and has the dissertation topic approved**. A student must be enrolled at *Mississippi State University* during the semester in which the exam is administered and must have a 3.0 GPA *on all courses attempted for graduate credit after being admitted to the degree program (i.e., program and non-program courses)*.

Ms. Burrell stated that a great deal of students whose dissertation topic has not been approved before students are taking Final/Comprehensive examination. Discussion followed regarding topic versus title that is submitted by students. Discussion followed.

Dr. Wise made the motion to strike the *research skills requirement and has dissertation topic approved* and insert *not including internship and/or practicum completed*. Dr. Spencer seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Motion carried.

Dr. Hosie asked Council members to update email address by sending an email to mherring@grad.msstate.edu

The meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.