

**Graduate Council
Mississippi State University**

Number: 1

Date: August 26, 2005

Present: L. Ballweber, E. Bergiel, P. Bonfanti, L. Bonner, J. Boyle, R. Burrell, T. Chamblee, F. Coleman, L. D'Abramo, C. Forde, J. Gilbert, T. Hosie, D. Martin, S. Nobles, A. Rankin (for D. Reynolds), C. Scanes, R. Shivaji, C. Sides, F. Sparks, B. Spencer, P. Sullivan, N. Younan

Absent: L. Barrow, G. Dunaway, L. Crittenden, W. Person, R. Taylor, S. Willard, D. Wise

Guest: J. Swafford

1. Dr. Tom Hosie called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in Conference Room 611 Allen Hall.
2. Dr. Hosie asked for any revisions of the minutes (May 13, 2005). A motion was made by Dr. John Boyle and seconded by Dr. Barbara Spencer to approve the minutes as distributed.
3. UCCC Report

No report
4. Degree Program Modification – Master of Science in Elementary Education

Dr. Jeanne Swafford, Associate Professor of Curriculum and Instruction, noted that the prepared modification proposal presented to the Council on April 22, 2005, called for changing “the format of the comprehensive examination from a timed six-hour written examination over the content of six courses to a comprehensive, take-home written examination and oral examination.” The Council did not approve the proposal modification. In order to be in compliance with the University policy, the written comprehensive examination will change from a six-hour examination covering the content of six courses (two general elementary, two reading, and two early childhood) to a comprehensive, written examination that is completed over a two-week period as well as an oral examination.

Discussion followed.

On motion by Dr. Connie Ford to accept modification and second by Dr. John Boyle, the Graduate Council approved the modification for the comprehensive examination for the Master of Science in Elementary Education.

5. Report from the Graduate Studies (see attached)

- a. Dr. William A. Person was absent. A report of activities was distributed to the Council. Dr. Hosie noted that he had discussed item #7, the removal of “Graduate Good Standing” and “Graduate Not Good Standing” from transcripts as well as the cumulative grade point average. Dr. Person was informed by the University Registrar that modifying the GPA would be problematic.
- b. Ms. Rita Burrell noted, regarding item #9 “Standard Letter for Recommendation of Academic Dismissal,” that the Office of Graduate Studies cannot cancel a student’s schedule. She asked that the departments fill out the form and have the dean sign.

Discussion followed.

Ms. Burrell asked for a subcommittee to investigate further. Dr. Barbara Spencer, Dr. Phil Bonfanti, and Dr. Boyle, along with Ms. Burrell, agreed to serve on the committee.

Ms. Burrell noted that the Extension of Time form had been approved and is on the Office of Graduate Studies website.

- c. Dr. Colin Scanes shared information with the Graduate Council about the move of Graduate Admissions to the Office of Graduate Studies. He also noted that there was an increase in graduate enrollment of sixty-five students from last year. Dr. Scanes shared the following information:
 - “electronic application” processing in the near future
 - length of time departments take to screen applicants
 - the increase in student retention rate and diversity
 - health care for graduate students and their families
 - research assistants getting up to 6 hour credits free and 50% of tuition waived
 - ways to market a minor with a major program
 - programs that will meet the needs of Mississippians

6. Report from Graduate Student Association

Mr. Erich Bergiel introduced himself to the Council and announced that a meeting will be held soon with the other officers.

7. Old Business

- a. Continuous Registration Policy.

The Council reviewed the policy which carried over from May 2005 meeting.

Discussion followed as to continuing the process through the Office of the Provost office for exceptions. The Council did not modify the policy. Dr. Boyle noted that if an exception can be made, why we should have to publicize it. Dr. Gilbert noted that if the Council is comfortable with the way that it is, allowing him to grant exceptions relative to the continuous registration policy, he has no objections to the policy as stated. A question was raised about how we can do this without saying anything publicly.

No action taken.

b. Transfer of hours relative to minors

Dr. Hosie asked if the Council wants to consider transfer credit for minors, saying the policy had been reported to him as unclear. MSU currently does not accept minors from another school, which is standard practice around the country. Discussion followed. There are two concerns: 1) that the minor is not an approved program at MSU and 2) some programs use course work from a previous degree to satisfy course work requirements. For the doctorate, if we transfer three courses (nine hours) from another institution and one (from a previous degree? current?) from MSU, would that be a minor? A discrepancy seems to exist in that we cannot accept transfer of a minor from another institution, yet we will accept the transfer of nine hours toward a major at MSU. A question was posed about accepting the transfer of one course for a master's degree and two for a doctorate.

Dr. Spencer made a motion to table discussion on transfer of hours relative to a minor. The motion was seconded by Dr. Ratnasingham Shivaji.

Motion carried.

c. Comprehensive preliminary examination and final defense of dissertation-what constitutes a pass/fail

Discussion followed.

No action taken.

Meeting adjourned at 2:51 p.m.