

**Graduate Council
Mississippi State University**

Number: 6

Date: January 27, 2006

Present: J. Ainsworth (for L. Ballweber), L. Barrow, E. Bergiel, P. Bonfanti, J. Boyle, R. Burrell, T. Chamblee, F. Coleman, R. Conerly, L. Crittenden, L. D'Abramo, G. Dunaway, C. Forde, J. Gilbert, L. Hardin, S. Nobles, W. Person, L. Reinschmiedt, C. Scanes, R. Shivaji, B. Spencer, C. Sides, F. Sparks, P. Sullivan, S. Willard, D. Wise

Absent: T. Hosie, D. Martin, D. Reynolds, R. Taylor, N. Younan

1. Dr. Barbara Spencer called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. in 611 Allen Hall.
2. Dr. Spencer asked for any revisions to the minutes (November 18, 2005).
Motion was made by Dr. Boyle and seconded by Dr. D'Abramo to accept the minutes as distributed.

Motion carried.

3. UCCC Report

Doctor of Philosophy in Agricultural and Extension Education (Program Modification)

Dr. Lynn Reinschmiedt presented the following change to the Doctor of Philosophy in Agricultural and Extension Education:

- The Doctor of Philosophy in Agricultural and Extension Education will be moved from the College of Education to the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences umbrella degree program. The name of the program will be changed from a Doctor of Philosophy in Education with a concentration in Agricultural and Extension Education to a Doctor of Philosophy in Agricultural Science with a concentration in Agricultural and Extension Education.

Discussion followed.

Dr. Boyle made the motion to accept the program modification for the Doctor of Philosophy in Agricultural Science with a concentration in Agricultural and Extension Education; Dr. D'Abramo seconded the motion.

Motion passed with no abstentions.

4. Report from the Office of Graduate Studies

Dr. Person presented the following report:

- To date, the unofficial graduate enrollment for Spring 2006 is 3131 (as of 12:00 noon). The University's official 10th day graduate enrollment for Spring 2005 was 3138.
- A total of 290 graduate students completed their degree requirements in Fall 2005. This number includes 44 doctoral, 12 educational specialist, and 234 master's students. A total of 59 graduate students were redlined.
- At this point in the academic year, 61 students (17 Summer 2005; 44 Fall 2005) have completed doctoral degrees; we need 39 doctoral students to complete their programs to maintain our standard of 100 doctoral graduates per academic year.
- The Office of Graduate Studies will sponsor a Super Recruitment Weekend on April 27-29, 2006, for selected undergraduate students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) to promote graduate education and provide participants with activities to assist them with making informed decisions regarding graduate education. We will identify students primarily from the state of Mississippi but will also invite students from the contiguous states. On Friday April 28, campus and departmental tours will be given.
- A Graduate Coordinators' meeting will be held in March 2006. The tentative date is March 21, 2006.
- The Office of Graduate Studies is moving forward with the implementation of the electronic application process. We are in the process of buying appropriate scanning equipment that will interface with the new SCT Xtender program. We plan to have the electronic process fully implemented by May 2006.

5. Report from Graduate Student Association – Mr. Erich Bergiel

Mr. Bergiel noted the 2006 Graduate Research Symposium will be held on March 31, 2006. The Graduate Student Association plans to begin accepting abstracts in early February. Students will be able to submit their abstracts on the web.

6. Old Business – Dr. Scanes

- The Enhancing Graduate Education at MSU document was provided in the January Graduate Council packet.

Prior to discussion Dr. Scanes:

1. Thanked the OGS for their hard work and success with the Spring admissions process.
2. Noted improvement of implementing an electronic admissions process and the need to assist programs in making admissions decisions quickly.
3. Announced the RFP for New Federal Initiatives
4. Waived the late registration fee until after the 10th day of classes.

Dr. Scanes then discussed Enhancing Graduate Education at MSU. Key points discussed included:

- ◆ Increasing the number of graduate assistants, stipends
- ◆ SREB- 100 doctoral graduates
- ◆ Diversifying programs
- ◆ Giving credit to inter-disciplinary programs

In recruiting high quality doctoral students, Dr. Scanes noted the following are possibilities: increasing stipends; offering more graduate programs/packages (five-year BS/MS programs, MBA paired with MS, MS/MS thesis pairings, MS [thesis] and MS [non-thesis] pairings, majors with paired minors); moving admissions process to an electronic process; and updating the Office of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education websites as well as department websites.

Dr. Scanes noted that in the future he would like to see the number of graduating Ph.D. candidates doubled.

Discussion followed.

Topics discussed included: budget/resources; more faculty; reaching professional secondary school educators by teaching courses when they are available to take them (at night, on weekends, and in the summer); assistance with marketing of programs; personal contact with the prospective students; seminars on best recruiting practices; bringing students to campus; contacting REU students to advertise programs; gaining access to a regional list of GRE scores to target specific students; and raising stipends for graduate assistants.

Dr. Scanes noted two possible ways to increase funds: putting a group of graduate courses together and offering certificates in certain programs and charging a premium to students who take a minor program. Dr. Spencer noted creating a distance program can increase the amount of funds that are available. The MBA Distance program has now exceeded the campus program with 80 students on campus and 100 online.

Dr. Scanes asked to make the Enhancement document an agenda item again. He also requested that the Council send ideas to him, Dr. Gilbert, and Dr. Person about moving the initiative forward and beginning implementation of it.

7. New Business

- Nomination of Representatives to Academic Review Board

Dr. Person noted the Council needs to elect a committee member and an alternate. The Council has until March 13, 2006, to get this information to the Provost's Office. Nominations should be sent to Dr. Hosie prior to the next meeting.

- ACE Evaluations of Graduate Credit from Non-Academic Institutions

Dr. Spencer suggested creating a subcommittee to develop a process on how to evaluate ACE military credit. Dr. Spencer, Dr. Shivaji, and Ms. Burrell volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. Ms. Burrell volunteered to look into what other institutions are doing concerning ACE credit.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.