Graduate Council Minutes

April 25, 2006

Present:

Council Members: Bob Hunger (Vice-Chair)
Brad Kard (Group I)
Bill Decker (Group II)
Dale Alspach (Group III)
Carolyn Henry (Group IV)
Charlie Hendrix (Group IV)
Diane Montgomery (Group V)
John Romans (Group V)
Alexander Rouch (Group VI)
David Moll (Group VI)

GPSGA: Shirley Vincent
Graduate College: Gordon Emslie, Mark Payton, Craig Satterfield, Mike Heppler

Approval of February 27, 2006 Minutes

Following a motion (Henry) and a second (Alspach), minutes from the February 27, 2006 meeting of the Council were approved. It was noted that the March 24 meeting of the Council did not have the necessary quorum, so that no minutes were taken.

Graduate & Professional Student Government Association (GPSGA) Report – Shirley Vincent

- The following new officers were elected to GPSGA on April 20 and will take office on May 8:
  
  Philip Verghese, President
  David Monismith, Vice President
  Laura Cheney, Secretary
  Sumanta Kumar Das, Treasurer
  Mike Langston, Communications Director
  Amanda Nichols, Parliamentarian
  Kasturi Ghatak, Intergovernmental Liaison

- GPSGA is currently formulating goals for next year which will include the creation of a revised Top Ten List with a few priorities identified, emphasizing that GPSGA represents graduate and professional students in all student matters, and seeking improved resources for student scholarship and travel.

- The picnic on April 14th was well attended.
New Business

New Program Request for Graduate Certificate in Forensic Examination of Questioned Documents

- Program is to provide certification in examination of passports, death certificates, birth certificates, etc. After discussion Alspach motioned, Henry seconded to approve, with change of dropping 2.0 GPA admission requirement. Motion carried.

Program Modification – Ed.D. in Applied Education Studies – Option Deletion of ABSED

- Program has 3 options within unit. Option ABSED has not been used for several years, other two options will remain. Henry moved to approve, seconded by Decker. Motion carried.

Program Modification – MS in Natural and Applied Sciences – Option Addition of Health Care Administration

- Program currently exist as a specialization within the Interdisciplinary Sciences Option with the Masters Program in Natural and Applied Science. Administration of this program will move to the OSU-Tulsa Center for Health Sciences in July; the proposed modification is to promote the program to an Option within the Masters Program in Natural and Applied Science, so that it can be appropriately transcripted. Henry moved to approve, seconded by Kard. Motion carried

New Program Request for Masters of Business Administration (Professional Track)

- After extensive discussion, Henry agreed to formulate a list of GC questions and concerns and relay these to Dr. Dooley regarding clarification of some of the requirements for this program. These are needed for Council to evaluate the request.

Program Modification – MBA

- A proposal was presented to add seven new Option titles to the MBA program. The Council expressed some concern that the specific requirements for each Option were not adequately spelled out. Henry moved to approve, Romans seconded, and the motion was approved subject to clarification that the courses listed in the proposal were actually required for each option. Dr. Emslie agreed to consult with Dr. Dooley on this.

Appointment of Academic Program Committee

- Dr. Hunger will coordinate with groups to determine who is on this committee, to be formed per the new Graduate Faculty Bylaws.
Graduate College Report – Gordon Emslie

- Dr. Mark Payton will assume the Associate Dean position on May 1. The Graduate Commencement is still set for May 5 in Gallagher-Iba Arena, but the reception has been moved to Noble Research Center. Advanced degree graduates can also attend the University-wide Commencement on Saturday morning. It was agreed to select the doctoral Phoenix Award winner as the representative student for the Saturday ceremony.

- The new Graduate Faculty nomination form was distributed for review.

- A motion was made by Romans, seconded by Henry to approve all graduate faculty nominations from the Groups. Motion carried

Policy/guidelines for resolution/appeals of graduate issues not related to grades or violations of academic integrity

- Dr. Hunger distributed a draft of the proposed policy. After some discussion, Dr. Hunger agreed to make changes to the document, email to each Council member for approval, and will contact Tony Brown of the Academic Standards and Policy Committee.

Old Business

Academic Program Reviews

- Meetings will be scheduled next week with the Dean and Group Chairs to review the reports from five-year program reviews.

Theses/Dissertations with Published Papers

- It was agreed to add a section to the Thesis/Dissertation Manual requiring, in cases where previously published works are used as chapters, a statement from the student regarding the contributions made by the student (in the case of multiple-author papers) and that, where appropriate, copyright permission has been obtained. Dr. Payton agreed to draft a statement for later review by the Council.

Group Bylaws

- The Group chairs were invited to inform Mr. Heppler of the specified period for initial appointment of new tenure-track faculty, per the new Bylaws. It was also agreed that the Graduate College would provide the Council a list of such appointments, and a list of actions regarding disposition of student petitions (previously dealt with by the Rules Committee) each semester.
Guidelines for Split Votes on Graduate Committees

- There is considerable variance amongst the Groups concerning this issue. It was suggested that a rule allowing at most one dissenting committee vote in order to pass be circulated for comment.

R-Grades

It was proposed to replace text in the following pages of the Catalog, which would allow “R” grades to stand as such, without change to letter grade after the fact. It was noted that faculty now have, and will continue to have, the option of assigning a letter grade each semester. If the changes below are approved, an amnesty period during which any pre-existing “R” grades could be changed would be provided.

Page 58, middle column, replace with:

Grade “R.” This grade is given to a student in a thesis or dissertation course (5000 or 6000). It is also given in a master’s degree creative component course when work is still in progress, in which case it is the responsibility of the instructor to have a final letter grade entered as soon as possible after the student completes the creative component course work. The new grade does not result in the deletion of the “R” symbol from the transcript, but a second, final, grade is posted beside the original “R”.

Page 183, middle column, replace with:

Grades for Thesis (5000) and Dissertation (6000). The grade of “R,” indicating research progress, may be assigned to thesis (5000) and dissertation (6000) courses. By assigning the grade of “R,” the adviser acknowledges that the student has made progress on thesis or dissertation research. Advisers also have the option of assigning a letter grade each semester.

Meeting adjourned: 4:14pm

Next meeting scheduled for May 15, 2:00 pm in 241 Willard.