Graduate Council Minutes
April 23, 2007

Present:

Dr. Robert Hunger, Vice Chair
Dr. Leon Spicer, Group I
Dr. Dale Alspach
Dr. Ziad El Rassi, Group III
Dr. Charles Hendrix, Group IV
Dr. Frank Collins, Group IV
Dr. Lowell Caneday, Group V
Dr. Kathleen Kelsey, Group V
Dr. Sandee Goetze, Group V
Dr. Lin Liu, Group VI
Dr. Alexander Rouch, Group VI

Graduate College: Dr. Gordon Emslie
Dr. Mark Payton
Dr. Leigh Goodson
Dr. Craig Satterfield
Mr. Mike Heppler

Guests: Dr. Timm Bliss
Dr. Steve Marks

Meeting called to order at 10:03 am

**Approval of February 16, 2007 and March 16, 2007 Minutes**

Following a motion (Goetze) and a second (Alspach), the February 16 and March 16, 2007 meetings of the Council were approved.

**GPSGA Report**

No representative present from GPSGA.

**New/Modification to Graduate Programs**

*Natural and Applied Sciences, MS Aerospace Administration and Operations -*

At its March 6 meeting, the Academic Program Committee (APC) had reviewed a request to delete the Aviation and Space Sciences Option in the Natural & Applied Sciences Masters degree, replacing it with a Masters in Aerospace Administration and Operation, with a single option in Aerospace Leadership, housed in the College of Education. The APC had moved that this request be
presented to Graduate Council. At the March 16 Graduate Council meeting it was recommended that clarifications be made and resubmitted to Council for approval. Caneday moved, and Goetze seconded, approval of the amended proposals, as a combined package. Motion carried.

**Certificate in Aerospace Security.** After discussion it was moved to table this proposal until the May meeting, to allow the program an opportunity to clarify expected certificate award rates and justification for the program.

**New Business**

**Graduate Faculty Nominations.** Mike Heppler handed out from all groups the lists of faculty approved for Graduate Faculty status. There was some discussion about the requirements of the various groups for doctoral chairing privileges, and Dr. Emslie suggested to Vice-Chair-Elect Caneday that establishing a base-level criterion as an amendment to the Graduate Faculty By-laws should be a priority of next year’s Council activities. Rouch moved, seconded by Goetz, to approve all current nominations as proposed. Motion carried.

**Old Business**

**Graduate Research Excellence Awards.** Two awards have been made in the masters category and six in the doctoral category. All winners have been notified and the website has been updated with awardees.

**Proposed changes in R-grade policy for 5000 and 6000 courses.** After receiving input from the faculty at various group meetings, there was a motion by Collins, seconded by El Rassi, to submit the following recommendation on catalog wording:

> In the OSU Catalog on page 63 under the section 6.2, titled “Grade Interpretation.”

The quality of student performance in all classes is indicated by the following letter grades: “A,” “B,” “C,” “D,” “F,” “F!,” “I,” “NP,” “P,” “S,” “U,” “W,” or “R,” “SR,” or “UR.” Descriptions of the grades are:

Grade “R.” This grade is given to a student in a thesis or dissertation course (5000 or 6000) or a master’s degree creative component course, when course work is still in progress. It is the responsibility of the instructor to initiate action to have the permanent letter grade entered as soon as possible after the student completes the course work. The new grade does not result in the deletion of the “R” symbol from the transcript, but a second entry is posted beside the original “R” on the transcript to show the final grade.
Grade “SR” or “UR.” These grades are given for satisfactory and unsatisfactory work, respectively, in thesis or dissertation courses (5000 or 6000). Both credit hours and grade points are ignored in calculating grade point averages, but courses in which a grade of “SR” is earned may be used toward minimum degree requirements.

On page 190 under the section titled “Minimum Grade Requirements.”

A grade-point average of “B” (3.00) is required to (1) maintain good standing as a graduate student and (2) meet requirements for a degree. In determining whether a student has met minimum requirements for a degree, grades for courses on the plan of study are averaged separately from courses not on the plan of study. In order to continue enrollment in the Graduate College, a student is expected to maintain a cumulative graduate GPA of at least 3.00. The grade-point averages for research hours and course work hours are figured separately. In order to receive a degree, a student must have a minimum 3.00 GPA in both (1) the course work listed on the plan of study (excluding those used to fulfill the thesis, report or creative component requirements), and (2) in the hours designated as research hours on the plan of study.

On page 190 under the section titled “Grades for Thesis (5000) and Dissertation (6000).”

The grade of “SR,” indicating satisfactory research progress, or “UR,” indicating unsatisfactory progress, may be assigned to thesis (5000) and dissertation (6000) courses at the end of the semester in which the course is taken, until the research is finished. Advisors also have the option of assigning a letter grade each semester. By assigning the grade of “R,” the advisor acknowledges that the student has made progress on thesis or dissertation research. Upon completion of the thesis or dissertation, the advisor submits a Change of Grade form to have the final grade entered for each “R” grade. These grades have no impact on a student’s grade point average, but courses taken in which a grade of “SR” is earned may be used toward minimum degree requirements.

Grades for Creative Component Courses

The “R” grade can also be assigned in a course identified as the creative component portion of a master’s degree. Each department in which a creative component is an option has identified one class in which “R” may be assigned if more than one semester is required to complete the
creative component. Upon completion of the creative component, the advisor submits a Change of Grade form to have the final grade entered.

On page 192 under the section titled “Basic Requirements."

The master’s degree may be earned by one of three plans:

Plan I – with thesis, 30 credit hours, consisting of 24 hours of course work and six hours of research with a grade of “SR”;

Plan II – with report, 32 credit hours, consisting of 30 hours of course work and two hours of research with a grade of “SR”;

Plan III – with no thesis or report, 32 credit hours of course work including the creative component. The creative component may be a special report, an annotated bibliography, a project in research or design, or other creative activity, as designated by the advisory committee.

On page 196 under the section titled “Basic Requirements."

The Doctor of Philosophy degree requires a minimum of 90 credit hours beyond the bachelor’s degree, or a minimum of 60 credit hours beyond the master’s degree in a related discipline. This includes a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 60 credits with a grade of “SR” for the dissertation (6000). Students may use 90 hours beyond the bachelor’s degree as a degree total only if admitted directly into the doctoral program from the bachelor’s degree.

On page 198 under the section titled “Basic Requirements."

The Doctor of Education degree requires a minimum of 90 credit hours beyond the bachelor’s degree, or a minimum of 60 credit hours beyond the master’s degree in a related discipline. Courses at the 5000 and 6000 level should make up at least 75 percent of the plan of study and must include 10 credits with a grade of “SR” for the doctoral dissertation. Students may use 90 hours beyond the bachelor’s degree as a degree total only if admitted directly into the doctoral program from the bachelor’s degree.
The Council also advised the Graduate College to make the new SR/UR grading policy effective Fall 2008. Until then (i.e., through the end of Summer 2008), letter grades for courses numbered 5000 and 6000 may still be given, and graduation eligibility will be determined using the current 3.0 coursework + 3.0 research GPA policy. Faculty and students would be advised of the opportunity to change ‘R’ grades that were earned through Spring 2008 to letter grades by the end of the Summer 2008 term. At the beginning of the Fall 2008 semester, all outstanding ‘R’ grades on transcripts will be converted to ‘SR’, and graduation eligibility from Fall 2008 onwards would be determined only through the coursework GPA (plus necessary non-coursework elements, such as comprehensive examinations, thesis/dissertation defenses, etc.)

**Admission to Candidacy.** Tabled until next meeting.

**Degree Time Limits:** Tabled until next meeting, pending discussions with certain faculty groups.

**Graduate College Report**

Dr. Emslie reported that Spring Commencement will be May 4.

Meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.