Graduate Council Minutes

February 16, 2007

Present:

Dr. Robert Hunger, Vice Chair
Dr. Leon Spicer, Group I
Dr. Allen Scott, Group II
Dr. Bill Decker, Group II
Dr. Rob Whiteley, Group III
Dr. Dale Alspach, Group III
Dr. Charles Hendrix, Group IV
Dr. Lowell Caneday, Group V
Dr. Sandee Goetze, Group V
Dr. Alexander Rouch, Group VI

Graduate College: Dr. Gordon Emslie, Dean
Dr. Mark Payton, Associate Dean
Dr. Craig Satterfield, Senior Director

GPSGA: David Monismith

Approval of January 19, 2007 Minutes

Following a motion (Scott) and a second (Spicer), the minutes from the January 19, 2007 meeting of the Council were approved.

GPSGA Report

David Monismith reported that OSU and GPSGA will be participating in a Graduate Research Day at the Oklahoma Capitol in April. We will find appropriate posters from the Research Symposium that will carry the message of how research conducted at Oklahoma research universities is important to the economy of Oklahoma. Monismith also reported that the OSU Research Symposium will be the week of February 19, and that the GPSGA is involved with three ad hoc committees related to health insurance for graduate students, improving the research and academic standing of OSU, and creation of a Graduate Research Center.

Old Business

Vice Chair Election. A committee has been formed and will meet next week with Dean Emslie. Emslie will send the names of nominees out by email and ask for objections. If no objections are made, ballots will be sent to all voting members. The new vice chair will assume duties on June 1, 2007.
**R-grades.** The groups are encouraged to invite Emslie and/or Payton to their group meetings to discuss R-grades.

**Candidacy Examination Proposal.** The objective of this proposal is to standardize the admission to candidacy across campus. In the discussion, Council members expressed concern about the use of the word “exam” and the ability of programs to require additional exams. The Graduate College will edit the proposed catalog wording and send out to groups for discussion in the Spring meetings of the groups.

**Graduate Research Excellence Awards.** The Graduate College needs to have the names of the award winners prior to April 13 in order to make arrangements for plaques. The packets will be sent to group chairs on April 2. Their committees select at most one masters and one doctoral award winner.

**Graduate College Report**

The Academic Program Committee (APC) met with representatives from the Fire and Emergency Management program who are proposing a Ph.D. After lengthy discussion, they were asked to revise and resubmit the proposal. A significantly revised proposal has subsequently been submitted and it will go back to APC in March.

Payton is working on the 5 year program review of the Natural & Applied Sciences MS degree.

Next week is the Research Symposium. Last year we had 150 presentations, this year 226. Twenty-seven universities are sending McNair scholars, which is up from 15 the previous year. Approximately one hundred McNair scholars are expected to be in attendance, which is up from 50 last year.

Graduate college applications are up 20%, both for international and domestic; however the acceptance rate to date is lower than last year. The on-line application process is working well, with application information feeding directly into SIS, and the turn-around for making a referral is about one week from application.

The NRC survey of doctoral programs is almost over. The program questionnaire deadline was January 18, and the faculty questionnaire deadline is February 22. Our compliance rate for both surveys is well above the national average.
New Business

*Time Limits for Degrees.* Payton presented a proposal that changes the process of determining time limits for degrees. Presently students have 7 years to complete a masters, certificate or specialist degree, and 9 years to complete a doctorate. Additionally, no course on the plan of study can be more than 10 years old at the time of graduation. The date of matriculation has historically started this “clock.” The Graduate College proposes that, instead of counting forward from the date of matriculation, we count backward from graduation. The proposal would require masters, certificate and specialist students to have no course on the plan of study more than seven years old, and doctoral students would have no course on their plan of study more than ten years old. The groups are encouraged to discuss this at their Spring meetings.

Next meeting

March 16, 2007, 1:30 pm

The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 pm.