Graduate Council Minutes

January 19, 2007

Present:

Dr. Robert Hunger, Vice-Chair
Dr. Leon Spicer, Group I
Dr. Allen Scott, Group II
Dr. Ziad El Rassi, Group III
Dr. Charles Hendrix, Group IV
Dr. Sandee Goetze, Group V
Dr. Lin Liu, Group VI

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

Guests: Dr. Shelia Kennison
Dr. Maureen Sullivan
Dr. Jay Gregg

Approval of December 6, 2006 Minutes

Following a motion (Scott) and a second (El Rassi), the minutes from the December 6, 2006 meeting of the Council were approved.

Proposed New Graduate Programs

PhD in Psychology Option. The Academic Program Committee recommended approval of this request to change the title of an option from “Experimental Psychology” to “Lifespan Developmental Psychology.” Allen moved approval, seconded by Spicer. Motion carried.

Graduate Certificate in Business Data Mining. This request was reviewed by the Academic Program Committee in November, at which time it was requested that the title be changed from “Data Mining” to “Business Data Mining.” The Committee recommended that the need for an ethics component be addressed. The program responded by changing the name and pointing out that material on ethics is currently in the applicable courses. Since the APC had not yet formally reviewed the proposal, a motion by Scott (seconded by Goetze) was made and approved to suspend the rules in order to give them time to do so. The APC members present agreed to presentation of the amended proposal to the Council.

Hunger brought up a question regarding appeals of the time limit (section C.), and there was discussion whether the appropriate body with which to lodge a petition
was the Graduate Council (as in the proposal) or the Graduate College. Emslie and Payton pointed out that the current procedures are that the Graduate Council has delegated authority to the Graduate College, so that the petition to Council is still appropriate, and indeed consistent with he wording in other programs.

Spicer moved to approve, seconded by Goetze. Motion carried.

PhD in Geology. This program had been reviewed by the Academic Program Committee some months ago, and deferred because of size. The Committee later reviewed the proposal and recommended review by the Graduate Council pending a more detailed discussion on resource allocation. A suitably amended proposal was presented. There was discussion of a needed minor change to strike “associate or full” in reference to graduate faculty membership. Also, Hunger pointed out that the proposal required only 80 hours for a Ph.D. for students with no master’s degree (Table 1B.), which is less than the 90 hours required by the Graduate College. It was moved by El Rassi, seconded by Scott, to approve and that Graduate College approval should be subject to a satisfactory change in the 80-hour requirement.

Old Business

Vice Chair Election Committee. Dr. Hunger distributed a summary of the responsibilities of this position and reminded each group to submit to the Graduate College by the end of January a name of a member to serve on this committee.

Regents Professor Selection Committee. Dr. Hunger reported that he had received the membership list for this committee and will forward to Dr. Gates.

Graduate College Report

Dr. Emslie reported that the recently-formed Interdisciplinary Task Force continues to look at the structure of interdisciplinary graduate programs on campus.

He reported that, after several discussions, it has been agreed that graduate tuition waivers would be retained in the FY 2008 budget at FY 2007 levels. He also reported that the Graduate College had received a pledge of approximately $500,000 in the FY 2008 budget for supplementary doctoral fellowships, plus $50,000 in the FY 2007 budget to cost-share with academic colleges the expenses of campus visits by prospective graduate students. Allocations have been made to the academic colleges.

Dr. Satterfield reported that the fully-online graduate application was now active. He also reported that applications are up 30% and that applications from McNair students have again doubled since the previous year.
Graduate Research Excellence Awards.

Rosslyn will send out notice of the call for nominees for these awards to Graduate Coordinators next week.

Candidacy Exam Proposal

Dr. Payton reported there is a vast inconsistency across campus in the manner in which candidacy examination is used in different programs. Hence, he distributed a proposal to standardize this based on approval of the dissertation proposal by the advisory committee mark entrance to candidacy. Rosslyn will distribute this proposal to the group officers for discussion at the Spring meetings of the Subject Matter Groups.

Next meeting

February 16, 2007, 1:30 pm

The meeting was adjourned at 3:14 pm