Graduate Council Minutes
June 15, 2007

Present:

Dr. Lowell Caneday, Vice-Chair
Dr. Brad Kard, Group I
Dr. Bill Decker, Group II
Dr. Allen Scott, Group II
Dr. Frank Collins, Group IV
Dr. Sandee Goetze, Group V
Dr. Alexander Rouch, Group VI

GPSGA: Chris Wright, GPSGA

Graduate College: Gordon Emslie
                Mark Payton

Guests: Dr. Bob Hunger
        Dr. Steve Marks
        Dr. Alan Cheville
        Dr. Mansur Samadzadeh

Meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

Approval of April 23, 2007 Minutes.

Following a motion (Scott) and a second (Goetze), the April 23, 2007 minutes of the council were approved.

Dr. Bob Hunger, past Vice-Chair, asked to address the Council. He expressed his appreciation to the Council and Graduate College for the working relationship he had in accomplishing many endeavors, especially the revision of by-laws and the streamlining of graduate processes. Since Graduate Council does not use a gavel, Hunger presented a Graduate Council clock to Dr. Lowell Caneday to represent the transition of leadership. Emslie presented Hunger with a resolution and plaque to show the Council’s appreciation for his service. A copy of the resolution maybe found at (website).

GPSGA Report

New GPSGA President Chris Wright introduced himself. He outlined some of his goals for the upcoming year, and he also announced his intention to provide various orientation sessions for new graduate students at the beginning of the Fall semester. He was asked to provide graduate coordinators the schedule for orientation.

New/Modification to Graduate Programs

Certificate in Preparation for College Teaching.
Emslie gave a report from the recent APC meeting in which a recommendation was made to send the certificate proposal to Graduate Council. This proposed 2-year certificate will be housed in the Graduate College, but will be administered formally by an appointed advisory committee. There are 6 hours of courses that will need approval pending program approval. Dr. Alan Cheville gave a brief explanation of the proposal. Rouch moved to approval, Scott seconded. During discussion, it was noted that Pilar Mendoza, mentioned as a collaborator in the proposal, is no longer with OSU and should be removed from the proposal. The motion carried with the suggested modification.


Emslie reported that APC, after several iterations, has recommended that this certificate be presented to Council. After the clarification of grammatical and typographical errors, Allen moved approval, with Rouch seconding. Caneday inquired regarding the fact that the number of admitted students stayed constant with time, and Marks explained that this was due to the “cohort” nature of the program. Motion carried.

Old Business

Proposed Changes in Academic Policy.

Admission to Candidacy. Payton presented the latest version of this proposal to Council. All references to the word “examination” have been removed, with the understanding that the emphasis of the proposal is on establishing minimum criteria for advancement to candidacy, and to encourage a deeper involvement of the advisory committee with the student’s research, specifically through the meetings to review the student’s research proposal and thereby establish the minimum requirements for advancement to candidacy.

Emslie emphasized that it is the intent of the Graduate College to standardize the minimum requirements for candidacy across the university and to remove the present connection to the Qualifying Examination, which in many cases is administered wholly by the student’s home department or program. Some students are eligible for fellowship only if they are defined as degree candidates, and it is important in assessment and accreditation to be able to provide accurate numbers of these students. He noted that the proposal seeks only to define minimum requirements; department can impose additional and/or more stringent requirements.

The Subject Matter Groups have met on this issue, and Rouch noted that certain members of Faculty Council have expressed a reluctance to endorse this proposal. Goetze stated that Group V has exhibited some resistance to the idea of having this benchmark occur one year prior to graduation. Emslie noted that current students will be grandfathered in our present rules, so none of our current students would have their progression toward their degrees delayed. Samadzedeh stated that the Computer Science Department has definite rules on candidacy, and Payton countered that these rules could conform to this proposed policy. Rouch suggested a change five lines from bottom, “oral and/or written” from “oral or
written”. For the last sentence, Caneday suggested that it be written that it is the responsibility of the chair of the advisory committee to notify the Graduate College.

Goetze stated she thought that Group V should revisit this issue. Decker moved, Goetze seconded, a motion to table the proposal allowing the revised wording to be reviewed by the groups at their Fall meetings. The vote was a 3-3 tie. Caneday broke the tie by voting in favor of the motion to table. Emslie indicated that the revised rationale portion of the proposal would be included when it goes back to the Groups.

**Graduate College Report**

Emslie reported that some changes will occur in December commencement. Faculty will be allowed to sit with their doctoral students and the faculty “gauntlet” will no longer be used during the precessional.

The Graduate College is upgrading the on-line admission process so that referral sheets will be an on-line form. They will have the same general appearance as the paper form, but will require only clicking a radio button and submitting.

The Graduate College has been successful in providing colleges and department supplemental fellowships for doctoral students. Emslie will be asking departments to provide information as to what is the best approach in funding graduate assistants with this fellowship money in order to maximize the recruitment of top-tier students.

This Fall semester, the Graduate College will be fully implementing TA and RA contracts to apply resident tuition benefit. Submitting a contract allows a flag to be set on the system and when the student is properly enrolled and an EA form submitted to HR, the application of the waiver is automatic.

Emslie reported on certain changes in personnel and assigned duties within the Graduate College. Patrick Anderson will maintain the Graduate Faculty Database. Mike Heppler will now be assisting students in submitting external fellowship proposals. He will create a website and will be making departmental visits. The Graduate College has hired a new employee, Danielle Clary, who will assist Jodie Kennedy, Mike and Pat.

Last fall, the Council approved a policy to remove a student from a program which moved the student’s status to “Special Student status”. This process works well for domestic students, but the Graduate College has recently learned that it doesn’t work well for students with visa restrictions. Emslie presented a proposed change to the policy in which domestic students will be changed to Special Student status, but the Office of International Students and Scholars will be notified in cases where students with visa restrictions are being removed. At that point the student will have one semester to remedy the situation. Emslie requested that this policy change be ratified by Council. Scott moved to accept as is, with Collins seconding. The motion carried.
Emslie requested that the Council consider two issues in the coming academic year next few months. First, he wanted Council to consider clearly defining the role and responsibilities of a student’s advisory committee. Second, OSU has no provisions for removal of graduate faculty status, and he suggested that Groups consider adding appropriate verbiage to their Bylaws.

**New Business**

- The Council approved the nominations to the Academic Integrity Committee proposed by the Office of the Provost

- Nomination for Library Advisory Committee: The Council nominated Allen Scott (Music) and Perry Gethner (Foreign Languages) for this position. Collins moved to close nominations. Motion carried.

- The Regents Professor Selection Committee for 2007-2008 was presented. Emslie reminded Council that Groups I and IV will have positions on this committee expire in June 2008. The new appointees will serve three year terms, and Emslie encouraged the Groups concerned to consider a process for electing these new members.

- Payton gave a report on student petitions. From December, 2006 through June 12, 2007, fourteen extensions of time to complete degree requirements were granted. Not all of these were granted on first request, but once a suitable plan for completion had been presented, all were granted. Eleven of the fourteen requests were masters students, three doctoral. Payton noted that all of the doctoral students were Ed.D candidates, and six of the eleven masters students were distance students. In all cases, the students were either not resident on campus or had left campus without finishing.

- Payton also gave a report on the academic decisions that were made for the Spring, 2007 semester. There are four categories that a student may be placed into if they experience academic difficulty (either currently on probation or make a grade lower than a B): departmental notice, academic probation, no further enrollment without department consent (NFEWDC), and no further enrollment. Payton reported that 43 students were placed on NFEWDC, 14 were placed on NFE. For a NFEWDC student to be reinstated, the student must submit a plan for improvement, a course plan for upcoming semesters, and a set of minimal standards that s/he must attain. This plan must meet departmental approval. Decker asked if a program did not want to reinstate a student, would the Graduate College overrule that decision? Payton responded that if the student was placed on NFEWDC and the program did not support reinstatement, the Graduate College would support the department in that decision.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:27 p.m.