Graduate Council Minutes
January 16, 2009

Council Members Present:

Dr. Lowell Caneday, Vice-Chair
Dr. Brad Kard, Group I
Dr. Allen Scott, Group II
Dr. Merrall Price, Group II
Dr. Nohpill Park, Group III
Dr. Shelia Kennison, Group IV
Dr. Sandee Goetze, Group V
Dr. Kathleen Kelsey, Group V
Dr. Lin Liu, Group VI

Graduate College:

Dr. Gordon Emslie
Dr. Mark Payton
Dr. Craig Satterfield
Mr. Richard Shepard

Guests:

Dr. Celeste Campbell
Dr. Christine Ormsbee (STCL)
Dr. Keith Teague (ECE)

Approval November 21, 2008 minutes

Following a motion (Price) and a second (Scott), the November 21, 2008 minutes of the Graduate Council were approved.

GPSGA Report

The GPSGA representative was not present.

Old Business

Crosslisting of Undergraduate/Graduate Courses – Celeste Campbell, Registrar.

Dr. Campbell reported on a method of course nomenclature which would enable courses offered for both undergraduate and graduate credit to be listed in their current order, while preserving the distinction between courses offered for undergraduate and graduate credit. The method uses the last character of the section number. For sections offered for graduate credit, this character would be a ‘G’; such sections could meet with undergraduate sections at the same time and place, and with the same
instructor but graduate students would be required to perform additional work. The proposed nomenclature would allow (1) a straightforward assessment that graduate credit is available for the course and (2) department heads to know, based on enrollment (or lack thereof) in the ‘G’ section, whether it is necessary to assign a graduate faculty member to the course.

Dr. Campbell pointed out that there are two cases where the last character of the section number currently has significance: in Outreach (6xy) sections, it is used to denote the method of delivery and in summer courses it is used to denote which summer session. Thus, if outreach or summer courses are offered for parallel undergraduate and graduate credit, the ‘G’ notation could not be used. An alternative method (e.g., creating a section of a 5010 course) could, however, be used for such courses (of which there were about a dozen during the last academic year).

Dr. Campbell also indicated that any courses taken for graduate credit by undergraduates will, upon the student’s admission to the Graduate College, be moved to the graduate transcript under the notation “Prior to Graduate Admission.”

New Programs/Program Changes

HRAE (programs deletion – MS and EdD)

Following a motion (Scott) and a second (Kelsey) to delete these programs (which have both been dormant for some time), the motion was approved unanimously.

Education (addition of Specialization in Special Education to Professional Education Studies Option in the PhD in Education)

Dr. Ormsbee reported a growing demand for such a specialization, and that we could anticipate 2-3 part time and 5-6 fulltime students per year. Following a motion (Goetze) and a second (Scott), the addition of this specialization was approved. Dr. Emslie advised the Council that, since specializations do not appear on transcripts, approval by the Regents is not necessary; the proposal will be forwarded to Instruction Council for its review.

Photonics (option additions for MS degrees in Physics and Electrical Engineering)

These parallel Options, with a common core, replace the current specialization within the Natural Science Option within the Natural & Applied Sciences MS degree. Following a motion by Scott, seconded by Price, the proposal was approved unanimously.

Control Systems (option addition to MS in Electrical Engineering)

This Option replaces the recently suspended degree in Control Systems Engineering. Following a motion to approve by Kard, seconded by Scott, the proposal was approved unanimously.
New Business

Defining Continuous Enrollment for Graduate Students

Following a request from the State Regents to clearly define “continuous enrollment” for graduate students, the Graduate College proposed amending wording on page 181 of the Catalog, specifically to rename the section currently entitled “Readmission to the Graduate College” to “Initial and Continuous Enrollment Policy” and to amend the wording to require readmission following an interruption in enrollment for one year (i.e., two semesters plus a summer session). Scott moved to accept, seconded by Kennison. Motion approved by a 7-1 vote.

Proposed Amendments to the Graduate Faculty Bylaws

After lengthy discussion it was recommended that the proposed changes to the sections on Affiliate status, appointment, and revocation of privileges be held in abeyance for a future at-large vote by the graduate faculty. Action on the remaining section for which amendments had been proposed (on advising and doctoral chairing privileges) was deferred until the next meeting of Council.

Meeting adjourned at 4:07 pm.