Graduate Council Minutes
November 20, 2009

Council Members Present:

Dr. Lowell Caneday, Vice-Chair
Dr. Barbara Stoecker, Group I
Dr. William McGlynn, Group I
Dr. Allen Scott, Group II
Dr. Merrall Price, Group II
Dr. Barry Lavine, Group III
Dr. Xiang Fang, Group IV
Dr. Tim Passmore, Group V
Dr. Lin Liu, Group VI

Graduate College:

Dr. Gordon Emmslie
Dr. Mark Payton
Dr. Craig Satterfield
Richard Shepard

Guests:

Mr. Aravind Seshadri (GPSGA)
Dr. Eric Benton
Dr. Peter Hoyt
Dr. Stephen McKeever
Dr. James Wicksted

Approval of October 23, 2009 minutes

Following a motion (Scott) and a second (McGlynn), the October 23, 2009 minutes of the Graduate Council were unanimously approved.

GPSGA report

Mr. Seshadri reported on a recent meeting with Senator James Halligan and Representatives Cory Williams and Lee Denny at the CIED office. Dr. Payton and President Hargis also attended this meeting, which was aimed at heightening awareness of graduate education within the State Mr. Seshadri also reported on a presentation at a recent GPSGA General Assembly meeting by Vice Chancellor Houston Davis of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. It was suggested by the Council that GPSGA, together with similar organizations at other educational institutions within the state, establish a rapport with Chancellor Johnson as the next step in this endeavor.
Mr. Seshadri also reported on the Research Showcase scheduled for publication in the Daily O’Collegian during Research Week in February 2010. Vice President McKeever’s office is sponsoring this article in which the research of seven students, one from each academic college, will be featured.

Mr. Seshadri also reported that the proposed policy on Graduate Assistant Rights and Responsibilities had been discussed at recent meetings of both the General Assembly and the Executive Committee. Formal GPSGA support for this policy had been sent to Dean Emslie.

Finally, Mr. Seshadri reported that GPSGA officers had attended the NAGPS conference in Lincoln, NE, at which thirty different graduate schools were represented.

A copy of the most recent GPSGA newsletter was distributed.

**Program Requests**

*Medical Physics Option in MS in Physics* – Dr. Emslie reported that the Academic Program Committee had reviewed this document and recommended submission to the Council, pending information from the department on the course structure and the funding source for the proposed clinical faculty member. Drs. Wicksted and Benton reported that initially the position would be funded from soft money, but that the department was in the process of developing a strategic plan and conducting an external review, as a result of which this position may be consolidated into a tenure-track position. It was pointed out that the proposed Option was a three-year program, in which the required courses would be offered on a rotating basis, probably every other year. A motion was made (Price) and seconded (Stoecker) to approve this program once satisfactory documentation regarding the course rotation schedule and the typical paths through the curriculum were submitted to the Graduate College. The motion passed unanimously.

*Bioinformatics Certificate* – This is a sixteen-hour certificate, which had been recommended for Council’s consideration by the Academic Program Committee. There was considerable discussion on ways to enhance faculty participation in this interdisciplinary program. An error in the enrollment table was also pointed out, which Dr. Hoyt agreed to address. A motion to approve with edits was made by Scott, and seconded by Price. The motion passed with one opposition.

*Deletion of Mathematics Option in MS in Mathematics* – A motion to approve this “housekeeping” request was made by Stoecker and seconded by Scott. The motion carried unanimously.

*Option changes in MA in History* – A motion to delete the Option in ‘History’ and rename the Option in ‘Applied History’ to ‘Public History’ was made by Scott and seconded by Fang. The motion passed unanimously.
Graduate Certificate name change – Forensic Examination of Questioned Documents – Dr. Emslie explained to the Council that this OSU-CHS program fell under the purview of the Council due to accreditation requirements at OSU-CHS. A motion to rename this Option “Forensic Document Examination” was made by Scott, seconded by Price, and was approved unanimously.

New PhD in Animal Science – Dr. Emslie explained that this was a consolidation of two existing Ph.D. programs (Animal Nutrition, and Animal Breeding & Reproduction) into a single program with a more comprehensive title. Following a motion by Price, seconded by Scott, a motion to approve this new program request passed unanimously.

Graduate College Report

Syllabus Requirement - Dr. Emslie reported that the Council’s recommendation for a syllabus requirement for all courses offered for graduate credit had been extended to all courses [except Thesis (5000) and Dissertation (6000)] and submitted to the Faculty Council for its consideration. He also reported that the Faculty Council had approved such a resolution, with the word ‘expected’ replacing the word ‘required,’ at its most recent meeting.

Graduate Assistant Responsibilities and Benefits – Dr. Emslie reported that this proposed policy, endorsed by the GPSGA, had been presented to the Council of Deans, at which it had been tabled pending review within the colleges.

Graduate Commencement – December 11. Regents Professor Stoecker will be the speaker.

Membership Committee Report

Dr. Price presented the report of the Membership Committee. She reported that the Committee had sought clarification of Group V’s requirement for “success in graduate instruction” as a criterion for renewal of Membership.

A motion to accept the Membership Committee’s recommendations passed with one abstention. Dr. Emslie commended the Committee for its pioneering work.

New Business

Renaming 5000/6000 courses – Dr. Payton reported that several 5000 (master’s thesis) and 6000 (doctoral dissertation) courses are simply labeled as “Research,” leading to frequent confusion on the part of students as to which course is appropriate to their curriculum. He asked the Council to recommend a consistent, distinguishing, nomenclature for these courses, such as “Master’s Thesis” and “Doctoral Dissertation.” It was pointed out that 5000 is also used for the report option and that this may need to be taken into account in the nomenclature scheme, at least for some units. Dr. Caneday agreed to prepare a nomenclature recommendation and present it to the Council in January.
POS changes to reflect RCR completion – Dr. Payton distributed a new version of the Plan of Study form with an addition to reflect department head certification of student completion of the RCR requirement, per P&P 4-0201. The Council saw no difficulties with this new form.

Old Business

Requirements for Graduate Coordinators – Dr. Caneday distributed a revised Resolution of the Council. It was moved by Scott and seconded by Price that this Resolution be communicated to the Provost by Dr. Emslie.

Graduate Minors – Dr. Payton reported on a limited response from other Big XII institutions. Iowa State defines graduate minors similarly to the way OSU does, but requires internal approval. Also a graduate minor at ISU cannot be in the same discipline as the primary area of study.

Revisions to Group Bylaws – The Group Officers reported that significant progress had been made in aligning the various Group Bylaws with the new Bylaws of the Graduate Faculty, particularly with reference to ongoing review of scholarship.

Other – It was agreed to cancel the December 18, 2009 meeting of the Council. The next Council meeting will be in January 2010.

Meeting adjourned at 3:26 pm.