

GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

The Graduate Council met Tuesday, April 10, 2001, in the MSC Boardroom at 3:00 p.m. Members present were: Dr. Robert Baumgardner, Ms. Challon Casto, Dr. Dean Ginther, Dr. Jeff Kopachena, Dr. Alma Mintu-Wimsatt, Dr. Robert Seay, Dr. Jon Travis, Dr. Dayle Yeager and Dean Mathew Kanjirathinkal.

Members absent were: Dr. Bobby Carmichael, Dr. John Hanners, Mr. Gerard Huber, Ms. Barbara Langham, Dr. Anita Pankake, Dr. Steven Shwiff, Dr. Jerry Trusty, Dr. Vance Underhill, and Dr. Tom Ward.

Minutes for the March meeting were approved.

Dr. Mathew Kanjirathinkal gave an update on the Curriculum Reviews. After the concern about the availability of faculty to teach the new courses was addressed the courses were approved. The statistics and research courses in Social Work were also approved. An ad hoc committee of the Graduate Council will review all statistics and research courses beginning this semester. This committee will also work closely with the College of Education Doctoral Studies Committee.

There was a brief discussion on the New Admissions Criteria reviews. The Graduate Council is still committed to completing the task this semester so that the new criteria will be in place by Fall 2001. There will be a special meeting April 24, 2001, at 3:00 p.m. to consider admissions criteria.

There was a discussion concerning the workload of the Graduate Council and the need for additional time to complete all the necessary tasks. It was decided to resolve this **as needed** by extending the length of meetings, i.e., begin at 2:30 p.m. and/or by calling special meetings.

Committee on Curriculum

The report on doctoral tools by the Committee on Curriculum was presented by Dr. Jeff Kopachena. Dr. Ginther updated the Council on initiatives made by the Doctoral Studies Committee in the College of Education. They have agreed that doctoral tool courses will have a common syllabus and a common final exam. There will also be a systematic schedule of offering research courses taking into consideration the different delivery methods.

The Graduate Council unanimously accepted the motion made by Dr. Ginther and seconded by Dr. Travis to accept the basic report of the committee concerning doctoral tools. The College of Education Doctoral Studies Committee will develop a set of revisions and modifications to the doctoral tools curriculum addressing the recommendations from the report of the Graduate Council Committee on Curriculum. The revised doctoral tools curriculum should be submitted to the Graduate Council committee for review by the end of the Fall 2001 semester.

The Council discussed the issue of allowing the research tools to be a part of the 90-hours of coursework required for a doctoral degree. It was agreed that each department should determine this issue for the respective program. The Committee will review the policy to propose changes to allow this to happen.

Committee on Graduate Faculty, Research and Instruction

Dr. Travis reported that the committee had reviewed the practice of not allowing a doctoral student to propose a dissertation and defend the dissertation in the same semester. The committee felt that this situation would not occur often and should be allowed. As in the case with Counseling, doctoral students are sometimes required to have chapters 1, 2 and 3 complete before they defend their proposal. The motion by Challon Casto to allow students to propose and defend in the same semester was seconded by

Dr. Baumgardner and unanimously approved by the Graduate Council. Our current procedure/practice on this will be modified accordingly.

Dr. Travis reported on the committee review concerning re-assigned time for dissertations. It was generally agreed that a system to award release time while a faculty member was actually supervising dissertations is needed. It is important to recognize the amount of work it takes to chair dissertation committee(s). This issue will be taken up again.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

Secretary to the Graduate Council