

**UNIVERSITY COUNCIL FOR GRADUATE STUDIES
AND RESEARCH**

MINUTES

5 November 2004

Meeting Number 351

Present: D. Arant (UColl), L. Bennett (CAS), S. Blanton (POLS), L. Brooks (MIS), M. Butler (GSA), Linda Clemens (HSS), C. Danehower (FCBE), R. Koch (NURS), K. Kreitner (Music, M. Logan, proxy), D. Larsen (ESCI, D. Lumsden, proxy), M. Logan (CCFA), J. Marchetta (MECH), C. Purtle (ART), E. Rakow (COE), B. Weltman-Aron (FLL)
Ex Officio: J. Brownlee (GS), K. Weddle-West (Assistant VPGS), A. Meyers (VPR)

Absent: T. McInish (FIR), S. Slack (BIOM), D. Wark (AUSP)

Guests: Jeffrey Kirk, Joe Matesich, Hari Surineni

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 pm.

351.1. L. Bennett moved (2/T. Sayger) that the minutes of Meeting No. 350, 1 October 2004, be approved with corrections. The motion was carried by voice vote.

351.2. Announcements of several fellowship and scholarship programs were handed out at the meeting to be distributed to students.

351.3. Discussion Items

351.3.1. The importance of continuous enrollment and correct grading for thesis and dissertation courses was stressed. An “S” should be awarded only for successful defense of a thesis or dissertation. Incorrect grading leads to problems enforcing continuous enrollment. If the student has not been enrolled continuously it makes changing the “IP” to an “S” problematic. Furthermore, data on ABD rates are now confounded by incorrect use of S, U, IP grades. One way to correct the problem may be to make “IP” the default grade for thesis/dissertation courses.

351.3.2. Effects of the Bologna process—the European plan to harmonize its disparate university degrees into three-year bachelor’s and two-year master’s degrees—on admission of international students to American graduate programs. This elicited a great deal of discussion. Several points were made: General education is taken care of in secondary schools, so European students specialize sooner and more intensively. The quality of individual programs should be looked at more closely. More emphasis should be placed on interviews and letters of recommendation. K. Weddle-West

appointed B. Weltman-Aron, C. Purtle, and T. Sayger to a subcommittee to study the question further.

- 351.3.3. K. Weddle-West summarized some graduate enrollment strategies that had been developed at the enrollment retreat.
- 351.4. Old Business: Versions of the Thesis/Dissertation Faculty Advisory Committee form were distributed for comments.
- 351.5. New Business:
- 351.5.1. Jeffrey Kirk made a brief Power Point presentation on his e-dissertation, the first the UofM has produced. He summarized the pros and cons of this format and took questions and comments: The e-dissertation took about 3-4 months longer than anticipated. Copyright paperwork and issues the same as for a paper dissertation. About 600 e-theses are now available, most as Word documents, and are indexed by ERIC, UMI, Google, etc. J. Matesich will develop a site, etd@memphis.edu. A paper copy will be archived, but InterLibrary Loan will use the electronic version. Permanence is a problem as most are pdfs; QuickTime seems most long-lived now.
- 351.5.2. K. Weddle-West drew Council's attention to the Miller Analogies Test Technical Manual Supplement that contains important revisions. It is imperative that faculty are apprised of these changes; the graduate catalog will be revised as necessary.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nancy Hurley