

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL FOR GRADUATE STUDIES

MINUTES, Meeting 359

4 November 2005

2:00 p.m., 177B Administration Building

PRESENT: D. Arant (UNIV, Pat Stevens, proxy), L. Bennett (CAS), P. Betts (SUAP), L. Brooks (MIS, C. Danehower, proxy), S. Chrietzberg (T&D), T. Dalle (ENGL), C. Danehower (FCBE), J. Frazer (GSA), K. Hendrix (COMM), R. Koch (NURS), M. Logan (CCFA), J. Marchetta (MECH), E. Rakow (COE), S. Slack (ENGR), L. Weiss (HSS); K. Weddle-West (AVPGS), C. Serex (Curriculum Planning), J. Brownlee (Graduate School)

ABSENT: D. Larsen (ESCI), T. McInish (FIR), S. Pezeshk (CIVL), T. Sayger (CEPR), D. Wark (AUSP); C. Schiro-Geist (VPAA)

GUESTS: A. Edwards (Graduate Admissions)

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 pm when a quorum was achieved.

- 359.1 Approval of Minutes of Meeting 358, 10/07/05. L. Bennett moved (2/M. Logan) that the minutes be approved; the motion was carried by voice vote.
- 359.2 Announcements
- 359.2.1 Lunch and Learn Workshop on Resumes/Vitae for Graduate Students (Clay Woemmel and Sarabeth Beekman): Career and Employment Services is holding a resume and CV writing workshop at noon on 9 November with free pizza.
- 359.2.2 GSA Clothing Drive (Joe Frazer): Professional attire, particularly winter weight, is being collected for distribution to students displaced by Hurricane Katrina. Distribution to graduate students begins 16 November and 1 December for undergraduate students .
- 359.2.3 Graduate Assistant Business Cards: Graduate assistants can have business cards with the UofM logo printed at the Copy Center, but the department must sign the order. The History Department raised the question of students who don't graduate from the program. A suggestion was made to add the year.
- 359.2.4 Observing Time Limitations on Grade Appeals: M. Logan noted that there has been a complaint about a department and dean not adhering to the time limits. Since students are held to these limits, departments and deans

should adhere to them as well. It is important to keep the process moving in a timely manner; students should be kept informed of the progress of the appeal.

359.2.5 N. Hurley announced that two Council members, Phyllis Betts and Lloyd Brooks, recently were awarded research grants.

359.3 Old Business

359.3.1 Academic Policy for Non-degree Students: Following discussion and the suggestion by the Arts & Sciences College Council to replace “may” with “will” in the last sentence, C. Danehower moved (2/S. Chrietzberg) that the statement be added to the “Academic Regulations” section of the graduate catalog. The motion was carried by voice vote.

359.3.2 Updating of Guidelines for Graduate Faculty Status: Following discussion, a taskforce on graduate faculty status, consisting of E. Rakow, S. Slack, S. Chrietzberg, and N. Hurley, was formed and will report to the Council in February.

359.4 New Business

359.4.1 Revisiting Part-Time Masters Guidelines (handout): Should the priority of this award be recruitment or retention? After discussion, it was decided to keep this award a recruitment tool, but to better inform faculty about it.

359.4.2 Matrix Training Update: All graduate coordinators have now received training. The system went paperless on 28 November.

359.4.3 Update on Health Insurance for Graduate Assistants: K. Weddle-West is the incoming vice-president of the Tennessee Council of Graduate Schools and will make health insurance for graduate assistants her emphasis. T. Jeong, graduate assistant in the Graduate School, has been compiling aggregate data, which show that health benefits are a best practice. There is a widening gap between public and private institutions in this area. The lack of health insurance at the UofM is becoming a deal-breaker, particularly for A USP and clinical psychology. We need to become more competitive. Outsourcing was suggested.

359.4.4 Discussion of *NDEA 21: A Renewed Commitment to Graduate Education* by the Council of Graduate Schools: Council members broke into small groups to facilitate discussion and make suggestions.

Table 1: Improving the relationship between the university and employers through programs such as

- Urban School Scholars
- Corporate sponsorships
- SUAP’s internships in community building (interdisciplinary)
- Project-based funding

Table 2: Retention of students in Engineering (60% undergraduate drop rate)

- Poor preparation, particularly among domestic students.

- Need better relationships with high schools (also true for the hard sciences)—P-21 initiatives
- International students have trouble with creative thinking, but good background
- Need to facilitate interdisciplinary research—the real world is not limited by discipline—problems include where to house the degree and who awards it.

Table 3: Interdisciplinary financial support is counter to traditional university procedure. Some problems:

- Who gets credit for degree? What is the instructional load? “Whose program is it anyway?”
- An example: Native Chinese-speaking ESL students who want to teach Chinese in Foreign Languages, lack the requisite 18 hours in graduate Chinese courses.
- Sharing technological and research expertise

Table 4: Enhance student awareness of interdisciplinary opportunities

- Resolving in advance the “logistical” issues (such as reference systems)
- Importance of faculty partnerships
- Facilitating faculty relationships across disciplines
- Corporate support

In summary, creating interdisciplinary centers may be the best way to address these issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 4 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by N. Hurley

Distribution Items

- 359.1 Minutes of Meeting 358, 10/07/05
- 359.3.1 Academic Policy for Non-degree Students
- 359.3.2 Guidelines for Graduate Faculty Status
- 359.4.2 Revisiting Part-Time Masters Guidelines
- 359.4.3 Matrix Training Update