

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL FOR GRADUATE STUDIES

MINUTES, Meeting 367

3 November 2006

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

PRESENT: D. Arant (UNIV), L. Bennett (CAS), S. Chrietzberg (T&D), R. Cox (ESCI), C. Danehower (FCBE), R. Gudmestad (HIST), R. Koch (NURS, J. Thomas, proxy), M. Logan (CCFA), T. McInish (FIR); E. Rakow (COE), H. Perkins (ICL), E. Perry (Faculty Senate), S. Slack (ENGR), D. Wark (AUSP), L. Weiss (HSS), C. Williams (ENTH); K. Weddle-West (VPGS), C. Schiro-Geist (VPAA), J. Brownlee (Graduate School)

ABSENT: P. Betts (SUAP), L. Brooks (MIS), K. Nelson (GSA), N. Wallace (ART), C. Serex (Curriculum Planning)

GUESTS: Alisha Rose (Career and Employment Services), Clay Woemmel (Career and Employment Services), Dixie Crase (University College)

367.1 Approval of Minutes of Meeting 366, 10/6/06. E. Rakow moved (2/L. Bennett) that the minutes be approved. The motion was carried by voice vote. Council members generally liked having materials distributed by email whenever possible.

367.2 Announcements. N. Hurley announced that the 2007 Guidelines for Faculty Research Grants are now available on Research Support Services' website. The actual application will be electronic; the form is being finalized now and will be available by Christmas.

367.3 Old Business. There was no old business

367.4 New Business

367.4.1 E-Recruiting. Clay Woemmel presented a demonstration of this new recruitment tool for jobs and internships. Free to all and available 24/7, it can be accessed through <http://saweb.memphis.edu/ces/> by using a UofM email address. An employer or faculty member can create job or GA advertisements and view resumés. Students will have to be admitted to use the system; they will be notified of this service by email and posting on websites with links.

367.4.2 SPEAK Test. Lisa Goins reminded Council members that all international TAs must take the SPEAK test and score 50 or above to teach. A score of

45 allows them to teach one semester while taking some remediation, such as AUSP's accent program, ENGL 6500 (that emphasizes presentation), or music tutoring sessions. The tests will be earlier this year—the week after Thanksgiving. Since there are only four variants of the test, students can take the test only three times. The SPEAK test now incorporates the new TOEFL, so if students receive 26 or higher on the speaking portion, they will not have to take the SPEAK test. TSE scores are also acceptable. If the test was taken at a previous institution, that score will be accepted at the UofM. IEI courses include writing; contact lgoins@memphis.edu for more information.

- 367.4.3 Merchandising and Consumer Sciences proposal. Dixie Crase explained that more and more students are interested in merchandising and the flexibility of online courses. The proposed changes should lead to an increase in both numbers and diversity. Current faculty will be used; the only cost is \$25,000 to convert existing on-ground courses to online ones. This money will come from Extended Programs, which provides funds to any faculty member to convert existing courses to online ones. It will be an exclusively online program; the required number of hours will be reduced to 33. E. Rakow (2/C. Williams) moved that the proposal be approved. The motion was carried by voice vote.
- 367.4.4 Engineering Technology Concentration Changes. Carl Williams explained that the accrediting body for Engineering Technology requires them to include the words “Engineering Technology” in the title of each of their majors and concentrations. D. Arant (2/E. Rakow) moved that the proposed name changes be approved. The motion was carried by voice vote.
- 367.4.5 Residency Requirements. There was a great deal of discussion on this topic. The 9-hour requirement can be a hardship for part-time graduate students. The problem is how to ensure engagement: perhaps through independent studies courses, online chats, assistantships. There was a general feeling that the term “residency” is anachronistic and misleading, when what is really being sought is some way of assuring sustained engagement between the students and the University. Do online programs need a face-to-face section? Dr. Weddle-West asked Council members to discuss this issue in their departmental and college meetings for further consideration by the Council in December or February.
- 367.4.6 Proposed Graduate Education Week in Tennessee. The over-arching aim is to help communities understand the value of graduate study. There were a number of suggestions: using the Graduate Student Research Forum to

launch the week with legislators as judges; have concurrent sessions with other colleges and schools, not just posters; use Chamber of Commerce and census data to demonstrate how the quality of life improves and how crime statistics go down; initiate individual college reports; take students who are in fields that impact citizens' life to Nashville to report on findings. Dr. Weddle-West asked Council members to discuss this issue in their departmental and college meetings for more ideas. Graduate Education Week is proposed for the first or second week in April.

- 367.4.7 AMA Report on the Importance of the Web in Prospective Students' Search for a Grad School. Dr. Weddle-West urged Council members to keep in mind the importance of the Web in recruiting, using blogs, podcasts, etc. The question is how to get faculty members involved in recruiting. Linda Bonnin has asked for names of a couple of faculty in each college to help with this. There were a number of suggestions: each one [faculty] reach one [applicant]; change recruitment tactics to meet changing markets; use grants to enroll master's students; identify a contact person in each unit to communicate with the whole university; get faculty to identify successful alumni and post their pictures and a few words on the program's website.
- 367.4.8 Growing Graduate Enrollment. Dr. Weddle-West informed the UCGS that the Growing Graduate Enrollment Committee is continuing to target specific programs for growth. Additional updates will follow.
- 367.4.9 Revised Bylaws. It was pointed out that Dr. Schiro-Geist's and Dr. Weddle-West's titles need to be updated. M. Logan moved (2/D. Wark) that the revised Council Bylaws be approved with the updates noted at the meeting. The motion was approved by voice vote. [The revised Bylaws have been posted on the Web.]

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nancy Hurley