

## UNIVERSITY COUNCIL FOR GRADUATE STUDIES

### MINUTES, Meeting 377

14 March 2008

3:00 p.m., 177B Administration Building

**PRESENT:** D. Arant (UNIV), L. Bennett (CAS), C. Danehower (FCBE), A. Istvan (GSA), R. Koch (NURS), C. Langstraat (ACCT), M. Logan (CCFA), C. Menifield (PADM), D. Patterson (JDST), H. Perkins (ICL; proxy L. Weiss), E. Perry (Faculty Senate), E. Rakow (COE; proxy L. Weiss), L. Schranze (MUSIC), D. Sherrell (MKTG), S. Slack (ENGR), D. Wark (AUSP; voted by email), L. Weiss (HSS), C. Williams (ENTH; proxy S. Slack); K. Weddle-West (VPGS), B. Park (Libraries)

**ABSENT:** R. Cox (ESCI), N. Wallace (ART), J. Brownlee (Graduate School),

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The meeting was called to order at 3:05 pm when a quorum was achieved.

377.1 Approval of minutes of Meeting 376, 1 February 2008: L. Bennett moved (2/C. Menifield) that the minutes be approved. The motion was carried by voice vote.

377.2 Announcements

377.2.1 Plans for Graduate Education Week in TN

- March 31, Dr. Cathleen May, Director of Dissertation Publishing at ProQuest will discuss ETDs with interested faculty and students and a representative from McWherter Library, with a reception to follow.
- Invitation/RSVP list for Cathleen May: Dr. Weddle-West asked that faculty and students who would be interested notify the Graduate School by Friday, 21 March.
- April 2, Graduate Education Week at the Legislative Plaza: The UofM will be represented by Biomed PhD student Justin Zook at this exhibit demonstrating how much graduate education impacts the public good.
- "Shadow Week" is a new feature of Graduate Education Week, during which an undergraduate will shadow a graduate student to learn about graduate education. It will culminate in a roundtable discussion on Friday, 4 April. Volunteers are still needed.

377.2.2 Graduate Student Research Forum reminder (handout): Because of space limitations in Rose Theatre Lobby, the Director informed the Graduate School staff that only the first 100 applicants can be accepted. UCGS implored Dr. Weddle-West to try to accommodate all students who submitted their applications by the deadline even it meant placing

additional tables on stage. She will ask the Rose Theatre staff if this accommodation is possible.

- Selection of judges for the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Student Research Forum: Judges are still needed. The following Council members volunteered: D. Arant, E. Perry, L. Bennett, C. Danehower, R. Koch, L. Schranze, M. Logan, S. Slack, and C. Menifield.

377.2.3 SREB flyers (handout)  
[http://www.sreb.org/programs/dsp/process/how\\_to\\_apply.asp](http://www.sreb.org/programs/dsp/process/how_to_apply.asp) This program strives to increase the diversity of PhD students who will become college and university professors. There are 2 programs, each including a \$15,000 p/a stipend. The deadline is 4 April.

377.2.4 Franklin Fellows Program <http://www.careers.state.gov/FF/>: This is a federal program for faculty members, but it is not federally funded. Fellows will be matched with State Department bureaus and offices that can utilize their expertise, but the home organization will fund the Fellow.

### 377.3 Old Business

377.3.1 Minimum number of hours required for the dissertation: There has been no stated minimum number of hours and a few students have abused this. The various college councils have requirements ranging from 6-18 hours. After discussion, D. Arant moved (2/M. Logan) that the University adopt the policy of requiring a minimum of 6 hours of dissertation credit, with the statement that individual programs may have more stringent requirements. The motion was carried by voice vote, with no objections.

### 377.4 New Business

377.4.1 Proposal for Procedure to Award Posthumous Degrees: Although TBR has a policy that the student must be enrolled in good standing in the final semester in order to be awarded a posthumous degree, the University has, until now, had no procedure for ensuring this. Therefore, Drs. Weddle-West and Wagner-Lawlor drafted such a procedure to be approved by both the University Council for Graduate Studies and the University Undergraduate Council. The draft was circulated to Council members before the meeting. Some revisions were suggested during discussion. C. Menifield moved (2/M. Logan) that the revised procedure be approved. The motion was carried by voice vote with no further discussion.

The revision is as follows (in italics): "4. For a graduate student, the Vice Provost for Graduate Studies will contact the student's major professor and the Associate Dean *or Director of Graduate Studies* of the college/school to ascertain stage of thesis/dissertation completion *or verify that the student is in the last semester of a non-thesis program*. The petition will include this information and be forwarded to the Vice Provost for Graduate Studies for initial approval.

377.4.2 Update on School of Public Health proposals: The proposal for a School of Public Health, including a PhD with 3 concentrations, was approved several months ago. However, TBR has investigated accrediting requirements and discovered that CEPH mandates three separate PhD majors. There will be

no resource changes, just a rearrangement of requirements. Dr. Weddle-West has requested assurance from TBR that the 3 new PhD degrees would be examined as a single program (as has been done for the BA/BBA in Economics) in terms of degree production. She is optimistic that it will be approved, since the proposal for the School of Public Health is an unusual top-down request from the governor through President Raines.

Dr. Weddle-West then asked for a motion to approve the reorganization of the program to meet CEPH accreditation requirements without sending the revisions through the full curricular revision process. M. Logan so moved (2/L. Bennett); the motion was carried by voice vote.

The Provost has asked Dr. Weddle-West to chair the searches for a Director of the School of Public Health and a PhD program coordinator.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nancy Hurley, MA