

GRADUATE COUNCIL  
Minutes of the Meeting  
January 20, 2006

The meeting was called to order by Dean Judith Walker de Felix at 1:30 p.m. Members in attendance: Ta Pei Cheng, Tom Eyssell, Sally Ebest, Ruth Iyob, Bill Kyle, Stephen Moehrle, Carole Murphy, Zuleyma Tang-Martinez, Yan Tian. Members absent: Eric Baumer, David Curry, Michael Griffin, Ruth Jenkins, Carol Peck, Patricia Parker.

**I. Minutes**

The minutes of the November 18, 2005 meeting were reviewed. Dr. Murphy moved to accept them and Dr. Ebest seconded the motion. Council approved the minutes unanimously.

**II Committee Reports**

Rules and Regulations – Bill Kyle

The committee has been emailed with its suggested assignments for this semester.

1. Should the provision to allow undergraduates to receive graduate credit for 5000-level courses be eliminated?
2. Are there any policy changes required in response to the UM System's Academic Audit?
3. Does the R&R Committee believe there is a need to review issues related to dissertation committee input and forms?
4. Should new graduate students have advising holds to keep them from registering?
5. Should programs have the option of offering graduate practicum experiences on a Pass / Fail basis...or should all graduate courses be graded courses?
6. How should the Graduate School address the emerging trend from the European Union of 3-year undergraduate degrees with respect to admission to Graduate School?

The Bologna Process has caused concern among U.S. graduate schools fearing the proposed EU degree might not be equivalent to a U.S. 4 year degree. Dean Felix noted we've already had cases where a student's degree is not equivalent. In one particular case, ISS did not see the BA degree as equivalent. An outside agency reviewed the case and determined the degree was equivalent. Dr. Iyob suggested the committee look at the IIE website for useful information on BA equivalent degrees.

The committee will first act upon items #1 and #4. Item # 4 deals with the new student advisory hold which has created some problems for students. Should non-degree students be subjected to the new student hold? Dr. Moehrle suggests

allowing students to opt out of advising (electronically). That way, their signature or waiver would be on file if there was a problem down the road.

### III. **Dean's Report**

The Graduate Faculty Nominating Committee's membership is incomplete. We need representatives from the Colleges of Fine Arts, Nursing, Optometry, and from the A & S humanities, and math/physical sciences sections. Sally Ebest volunteered to serve as the humanities representative. Dr. Felix suggested merging Humanities with another sector since it's such a small group of graduate faculty. She will ask the rules and regulations committee to review this option.

The Graduate School will host a dissertation forum for doctoral students. The forum is intended to create a supportive environment for developing quality dissertations in a timely manner. The first event will be held on February 16 from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm at the Alumni Center. There will be leaders (students, faculty, post-docs) to facilitate discussion on various dissertation topics. If Council has any suggestions for group leaders, please forward them to our office. One suggestion was to include a session on statistical information.

The Graduate School will host its spring Graduate School Day for recruitment and research on Monday, April 17 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm in the MSC. The event will showcase student and faculty research and offer information on all of our graduate offerings. Student posters will be judged and winners will receive either monetary prizes or awards of commendation. The program directors suggested awarding the posters by discipline and by master's and doctoral sections. The group suggested changing the title to "Graduate School Day: scholarship is more than just money". After much input and discussion the group suggested "Graduate School Open House: Scholarship, Careers and the Marketplace".

Other comments were:

\*share our research with the community. Dr. Murphy agreed to contact the St. Louis Rotary to see if they would be interested in attending.

Dr. Moehrle suggested showcasing Brenda Bredemeier's research on character education – something that would be a draw to the event.

\*Judith mentioned that our Biology dissertations are proving that "evolution is real".

\*Dr. Iyob mentioned a number of books in education that have come out. There could be a brief discussion of those books. This would bring in high school people and might bring in people from the press.

\*Dr. Moehrle suggested highlighting 3 or 4 pieces from each school. This would be a good PR tool for the University. Use the faculty access system. Have a faculty booth where we could say "we couldn't provide you all of our publications, but here are some of our most cutting of the cutting edge publications."

\*Dr. Kyle suggested changing the time to 5:30 – 7:00 but the Dean said then we lose a lot of the undergraduate population.

\*Awards – focus awards by research orientation, not by degree program. Students should chose their area in which to compete, such as: empirical/analytical research; introspective research; emancipatory research.

The Dean will talk to the Dean’s Council and the Marketing committee about these ideas

## VI. **Other Business**

Dr. Ruth Iyob requested discussion of “How to recruit more diverse graduate students.” The Graduate Program Directors suggested holding a summer institute. The Bridge Fellowships are geared toward recruiting underrepresented students in the areas of math and science. Dr. Moehrle’s Admissions and Scholarship committee is looking at investing in future graduate students by working on the pipeline. Other suggestions for recruiting were:

- Talk to current area high schools about their best and brightest; involve the African American chapter of the Alumni Association;
- Work with Gladys Smith on the Bridge program;
- Possibly include Vashon students who are now studying on our campus this semester;
- Work with Lynn Beckwith, formerly of the Normandy School district and now on campus;
- Ask local principals to bring their classes to campus for a visit;
- Gateway Writing Project;
- Use administrative resources and include curriculum;
- Track diverse students by use of faculty mentoring. They may or may not go to school here but get them ready to succeed somewhere else;
- Promote the 2+3 program;
- Branch out to other graduate fields for undergraduate degrees;
- As a metropolitan university, we have diversity in our own community. We could mentor our undergraduates even if they go elsewhere. They could be recruited later to our own faculty;
- The Mc Nair grant provides funding for undergraduates to work as RAs. We could do the same thing if we had money to support undergrad RAs. Research teams in the science departments are using undergraduate students are part of the team of graduate students and faculty;
- Faculty involvement is crucial for success.

Dr. Iyob believes a summer institute should be intense with 4 or 5 hour classes for one month with areas by week in:

- Art – Philosophy
- Literature – Political Science

- History – Sciences
- Technology – Social Sciences

Students will see all subject areas in four weeks. The seminar could also be available for undergraduates and transfer students. Build the seminar on the current admissions workshop which is more generic.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Zuleyma Tang-Martinez  
Vice-Chairperson and Secretary