

GRADUATE COUNCIL  
Minutes of the meeting of January 26, 2007

The meeting was called to order by Dean Judith Walker de Felix at 1:30 p.m. Members in attendance were: Sally Ebest, Michael Griffin, Ruth Iyob, Karl Kottemann for Tom Eysell, Haiyan Cai, Teresa Guess, Stephen Moehrle, Michael Murray. Members absent: Patricia Parker, Bill Kyle, Rick Rosenfeld, Carl Bassi, Ruth Jenkins, Susan Kashubeck-West, Joyce Corey.

I. **Minutes**

The minutes of the November 27, 2006 meeting were approved as submitted.

II. **Committee as a Whole**

Kate Schroeder, Graduate Research Assistant, reviewed the following course proposals and recommended their approval:

Econ 5510	Public Choice (add)
Hist 7009	Doctoral Seminar in European History Since 1715 (drop)
Phil 4478	Topics in Philosophy of Mind (change P, D)
Phil 4479	Philosophy of Cognitive Science (change P)
Phil 4483	History and Philosophy of Science (change P, D)
Soc 4100	Diversity and Social Justice (drop)
Mid Ed 4350	Teaching Science in Middle School (add)
Sp Ed 6436	Individual Systems of Positive Behavior (add)
Sp Ed 6452	Education of Students with Emotional Behavioral Disabilities (Change T)
Sp Ed 6325	Advanced Behavior Management (add)
Sp Ed 6345	Characteristics of Cross Categorical Disabilities (add)
Sp Ed 6340	Education of Learners with Cross Categorical Disabilities (add)
Sp Ed 6415	The Law and Special Education (add)
Sp Ed 6430	Characteristics of Developmental Disabilities (change T, D)
Sp Ed 6441	Instructional Methods for Exceptional Students (Change T, P, D)
Sp Ed 6443	Characteristics of Learning Disabilities (change T, P)
Sp Ed 6450	Characteristics of Emotional/Behavioral Disorders (Change T, P)
Tch Ed 5312	Differentiated Instruction (add)
Tch Ed 6450	Gender, Language & Identity (add)
IWGS 6450	Gender, Language & Identity (add)
Psy 7410	Women and Mental Health (change D)
IWGS 7410	Women and Mental Health (add)
Psy 6418	Seminar in Human Sexuality (change D)
IWGS 6418	Seminar in Human Sexuality (add)

Council accepted the report without dissent.

Council reviewed the change in degree requirements for the Master of Education in Special Education. The program revisions were made based on requirements by the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* and *No Child Left Behind Act*. Council approved the changes.

### III. **Graduate School Fellowship Deadlines**

Upcoming deadlines for fellowships:

**Graduate School Dissertation Fellowships** – February 15; \$14,000 award for 3 students. Last year the committee individually ranked the applications and then discussed the outcome. Council should review the applications for the applicants' ability to finish the dissertation within one year.

**Graduate School Recruitment Fellowships** - February 15, April 1. Last year the committee awarded fellowships per degree program for \$4000 each. It is a four-year package for a total of \$16,000 per student. Many applicants turned us down either because the offer was too late or too little. We've moved the deadlines this year.

The Dean of A & S is submitting a form 5 asking for additional funding to increase student stipends. Is it better to offer a fellowship to more people or to offer it to better, but fewer, people? Should we offer the fellowship for one year instead of a 4 year package, as does UMC? Most felt, students wouldn't accept a one year package.

The Graduate School staff will provide Graduate Council with the stipend amounts provided by the Ph.D. programs. Thoughts: Should departments decide how to use the funds; should there be no limit on the number of applicants from each department; do you give the funds to the best students no matter what program? The Dean reiterated that the funding for these fellowships came from the funding additions.

Council will be given the applications at its next meeting on February 16 and will review and make their decisions at that time.

**Bridge Fellowships** – the deadline for the Bridge Fellowships is April 1. Students must be enrolled in the sciences or math.

Another suggestion for increasing funding for students is to find companies to award external pre-internships. Clinical Psychology students have off-campus clerkships. Council suggested that the Dean check with Ray Mundy on such opportunities. He may be a good source of information. Perhaps a town hall with faculty would bring more creative ideas.

### **Three Year Degrees for International Students**

Dean Felix charged a Faculty Inquiry Group to discuss the Bologna Agreement and how our campus should proceed. Currently, we do not accept any foreign three year degrees but the Bologna Agreement has 45 countries that will offer a 3 year degree. The committee plans to send out a questionnaire on how departments view 3 year degrees.

The three year degrees do not include any Gen Ed components; instead it places the emphasis on the major. International Student Services does not process any 3 year degree applications. Some applicants who are already in the U.S. have been told to take 24 additional hours and then apply to Graduate School. Some students take 24 hours in any field whereas other departments require them to take prerequisites for the degree program they wish to pursue. The Graduate Program Directors may recommend that all applications go to the departments for a decision or only those with high GRE or GMAT scores. The B.Com Indian degree students (3 year) do well in business. However, 3-year degree students have trouble in the sciences. The Graduate Program directors are thinking about how they want to act. How do we give them that freedom? Perhaps offer an entry course in methodology for those with 3 year degrees for graduate credit or create a bridge program for them.

At the March meeting, we will ask International Student services about their orientation week and how it might relate to the above discussion.

Sally Ebest mentioned the certificate in University Teaching. It is based on the Preparing Future Faculty program. It assists students with preparation for teaching, learning motivation theory, teaching practice, and professional development. Good prep for all grad students – need faculty to encourage students to attend.

The Dean pointed out that Teaching Assistants cannot be fired. They must be treated like tenured faculty, i.e. ‘dismissal for cause’. Appointment letters need to be given to hires with information on duties, expectations, hours of work, etc.

The Graduate Research Fair is scheduled for Monday, April 16 from 4-6 pm. in the MSC. Students will be asked to share their research posters and invite friends, family, and colleagues to learn about their work. The Graduate Program Directors agreed that the recruiting portion should be held separately from the research fair. Recruitment will become part of the UMSL Open House which is held twice a year.

### **Changes in Proquest Microfilming – Betsy Sampson**

The UMI Proquest publishing agreement submission form has gone from 7 to 26 pages. There is now an open access option for \$95.00 which allows the entire dissertation to be available to anyone through the internet. Right now it doesn’t seem to be a good option for our students since access is already available through libraries.

There is an option for embargos on theses and dissertations, i.e. the MFA students who don't want their work available until after they publish or the chemistry students who are waiting for a patent.

Proquest no longer accepts signatures on the title page. Question for the advisors: should the signature page be on personal copies only?

Proquest has removed the 350 word limit on their abstracts. Should the length of abstracts for the oral announcement be unrestricted as well or should it remain at 350?

Copyrighting is always an issue for students as they're unsure what it means. Guidance by departmental faculty would be helpful.

### **Religious Differences**

The law requires you treat religious accommodations as we do ADA requests. Faculty should segregate action vs. belief. If it's educational and students need to learn it, then the instructor can require it. We need to document, however, that we've thought about requests for religious accommodation. We need to try to be accommodating to the student, try to resolve it, and if the student refuses, then put the burden on the student. Our current policy states that we do not discriminate. There is nothing specific in our policies on this issue. Is a written statement needed? Perhaps include careful thought in orientations with TAs and faculty.

The meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Moehrle  
Secretary and Vice-Chairperson

SM:meh