

GRADUATE COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting

October 21, 2005

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

I. **Minutes**

The minutes of the September 16, 2005 meeting were reviewed. Dr. Moehrle moved to approve, Dr. Eyssell seconded the motion, and Council approved the minutes as written..

II. **Committee Reports**

Admissions and Scholarship – Michael Griffin

Dissertation Fellowships

The committee met last week to review applications for three Dissertation Fellowships available for \$14,000 each starting in January, 2006. Although the committee only received 3 applications, they believed all were worthy recipients. The Fellowships were awarded to: Anand Jeyaray, PhD IS; Jorge Brea, PhD. Physics and Osman Ozturgut, Ph.D. Education. The committee asked that the next set of awards be sent over without any identifiers.

Bridge Fellowships

The Bridge Fellowships were created to prepare underrepresented students to work in the fields of mathematics and science. So far, the campus hasn't been able to identify bridge students who would be eligible for the award. In the short term, the committee would like to offer the fellowships to students outside of the targeted area but from similar backgrounds. In the mid-term, the committee would like to make the Bridge Fellowships a selling point when the University goes out to schools to recruit. By doing so, the committee hopes to build a pool of talent for the program.

The Bridge Fellowship account currently has about \$10,000 to award for fellowships. The size and number of awards will be determined by the committee. Dr. Parker noted that in order to obtain top minority candidates, the University will need to offer a significant amount of fellowship money.

Curriculum and Instruction – written report submitted by Tim Farmer/Ruth Iyob

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	PROPOSED CHANGES	COMMITTEE ACTION
Anthropology 4316	Senior Seminar Tutorial	Change prerequisite	Approved
Economics 4640	Transportation Economics		<i>Withdrawn by Economics Department</i>
Economics 5640	Transportation Economics	New course	Approved with addition of prerequisites: Economics 3001 or BA5000
English 4130	Advanced Poetry Writing	Change title	Approved
English 4140	Advanced Fiction Writing	Change title	Approved
French 5311	Advanced Topics in French Culture	New course	Approved with addition to description: “Language of instruction is French.”
German 5311	Advanced Topics in German Culture	New Course	Approved with addition to description: “Language of instruction is German.”
Spanish 5311	Advanced Topics in Spanish Culture	New Course	Approved with addition to description: “Language of instruction is Spanish.”
History 5089	Advanced History of Ideas in the West	New Course	Approved with change in description: “An examination of some of the most important ideas and debates that shaped the Western world. Topics include Platonic versus Aristotelian models of the universe, Medieval synthesis and the challenge of Renaissance Naturalism, the Scientific Revolution, the political ideas of Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Romanticism, Marxism, Darwinian evolution, Freudian psychology, existentialism, structuralism and post-structuralism.”

Psychology 7405	Personality/History and Systems in Psychology	Change title, description	Approved
Psychology 7487	Independent Research Project	New course	Approved with description: "Supervised original research project of a clinically-related topic."
Psychology 7488	Specialty Examination Research	New course	Approved with correction of typographical error in title: "Specialty Examination Research"
Educ 7050	The Research Process I: Framing Research Questions Within the Education Literature	Change prerequisite	Approved
Ed Adm 7050	The Research Process I: Framing Research Questions Within the Education Literature	New course (cross-listed with Educ 7050)	Approved
Ed Am 6407	School Staff Development & Supervision for Special Education Administration	New Course	Approved
Ed Am 7150	Educational Inquiry	New Course	Approved
Ed Am 7250	The Change Process in Schools and School Districts	New Course	Approved
Honors 4910	Independent Study: Internship	New Course	Approved
JEE 4370	Signals and Systems Laboratory-Lecture/Lab	Change number, prerequisite	Approved

Council accepted the C & I committee report and approved it unanimously.

At the Provost's suggestion, the Graduate School is piloting a process to electronically submit, log and review course proposals. Information on the process is on the Senate website. One person in each college has been designated to submit course proposals electronically. The Provost insists that individual departments whose signature is required on a course offered by another department cannot hold it up. They may email comments on the proposal and those comments will be forwarded to the reviewing committees.

Program Development Committee - Tom Eyssell

The Dean suggested some items for the committee to work on this year. The committee selected which ones they wished to review. The first item on the list is the ESL issue, which was discussed in the Graduate Program Directors meeting prior to Grad Council today. Dr. Eyssell has set up a list-serve for committee discussion. There are two concerns. One relates to an admission policy and the other relates to a policy for International TAs. It seems that there is no policy to backup what's been the practice. The committee will review current policies and procedures and bring their recommendations to Graduate Council. If Council approves, then the final recommendation will be voted on by the Graduate Faculty.

The Graduate Program Directors should be the ones to determine which students need to take the placement test. The group asked International Student Services to exempt students from the placement tests who are admitted to the Biology, Chemistry and Physics programs. If the Graduate Program Director wants a new student to take the placement test, he/she will notify the ISS office staff. Students in other graduate programs will be tested unless otherwise notified by the Graduate Program Director.

The Dean noted that the ESL placement test issue stemmed from a meeting of the science chairs with the Provost. The Dean will send Council the issues raised by the chairs.

Other comments: In Biology, students are required to take the standardized TOEFL test but it seems that who is required to take which ESL classes doesn't relate to their English speaking ability. Having a department that teaches the ESL courses decide how many courses a student must take could become a conflict of interest. A conflict of interest could also arise if the decision is left to the Graduate Program Director who might be under pressure by his/her dean to increase enrollments.

Dean Felix mentioned that UM policy gives authority to the department chairs to assure English proficiency. The chairs can rely on ESL expertise or use some other measure of proficiency. The ESL requirement can be waived by Graduate Dean. It was emphasized that the ESL issue under discussion is separate from and does not affect the requirement for English proficiency for TAs.

The Graduate School will contact Dr. Beatty and Dean Davis requesting graduate faculty who would be willing to serve on open positions on this committee and other Council subcommittees.

Rules and Regulations

The committee has not yet met since there are too many open slots in membership. The committee will be informed when the remaining slots are filled.

The dean distributed a handout about allowing pass/fail for practicum courses and she will send background information to the R & R committee for discussion. Comments by Council were: the Pass/Fail option should be only for specific types of courses; it should be the instructor's choice whether to use P/F, the decision should not be up to the student.

III. Dean's Report

The Graduate Faculty meetings for Fall and Spring need to be scheduled soon. Council chose the dates of Wednesday, November 30, 2005 and Wednesday, April 5, 2006. The meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m. A location will be determined shortly.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Zuleyma Tang-Martinez
Vice-Chairperson and Secretary

ZTM:meh