

Minutes of **University Graduate Council**  
September 28, 2010

**Present:** Chris Livingston (AA), Bonita Peterson (BUS), Chair William Ruff (EDUC), Warren Jones (ENGR), Carl Fox (DGE), Tim McDermott (AG) Robert Bennett (L&S-Letters), Yves Idzerda (L&S-Science), Kelli Begley (NURS).

Also attending were Steve Cherry (MATH), Nathalie Caillaud (OIP), and Donna Negaard (DGE).

Meeting commenced at 1:06 p.m. in 114 Sherrick Hall.

Approval of Minutes

- Minutes for May 06, 2010 – moved, seconded and approved

Open Campus Forum

- Post-Doctoral Excellence Program has received nine applications. The applicants are outstanding, and it will be difficult to choose just two.

Committee Reports

None

Graduate Certificate in Applied Statistics

- a. This certificate should fill the need for official training in statistics on campus, and would be recorded on a student's transcript as such.
  - a. Collecting and analyzing data is often a major part of graduate research, and a background in statistics is critical.
- b. This proposal has been taken to the Academic Affairs Committee at Faculty Senate. They also moved to recommend Math's proposal.
- c. The certificate requires courses 410/412 and 511/512, which are data analysis courses with emphasis on inference, interpretation, and result presentation.
  - a. These courses essentially act as pre-requisites to appropriately prepare students before they move on to more specialized coursework.

Motion: Move to recommend proposal as written. Motion seconded, and approved.

480 Credits on Graduate Programs of Study

- a. A policy stating that 480s are not allowed on a graduate program of study has been inconsistently represented on DGEs website as well as in the MSU catalog.
  - a. Some departments are using 480s for new course requests more often than 580s.

- b. New course requests could be revised to include the option to specify whether or not the department intends to allow the course to be used towards graduate credit.

Motion: Move to remove policy stating that 480s are not allowed on graduate programs of study, and to revise 480 course requests. Motion seconded, and approved.

#### 689 Credits on Masters' Programs of Study

- a. Should Graduate Research credits (689s) be allowed on a masters' program of study?
  - a. Not all graduate departments offer 689s.
  - b. A student is required to be in a graduate standing, and in some cases to be registered for thesis or dissertation credits in order to register for 689s.
- b. Graduate Consultation credits (589s) are not allowed on programs of study.
  - a. 589 credits serve a different purpose than 689 credits because of the research component.

Recommend to forward this issue to the Curriculum Committee to analyze the purpose and use of 589 and 689 credits.

#### DGE Staff Reports

- Division of Graduate Education would like to change their name to the Graduate School at MSU, but Board of Regents' consideration of name changes has been postponed until November/December.
- The National Research Council's report on doctoral programs has been released.
- MSU's new governance councils have changed some of our processes slightly.
- GTA roundtables are open to new faculty as well as students.

#### DGE Exit Survey

- a. Please submit comments to DGE.
- b. Getting students to fill the survey out can be a challenge & DGE will have to consider different strategies to get optimal participation.

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Catherine Dale, UGC Secretary  
Division of Graduate Education