

MINUTES
GRADUATE COUNCIL
February 20, 2003
1:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Winfred Phillips, Chair, Dr. Jeffrey Adler, Dr. James Algina, Dr. Lauren Chapman, Dr. Richard Condit, Mr. Jason Gainous, Dr. Marjorie Hoy, Dr. Christiana Leonard, Dr. Richard Romano

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Russell Bauer, Dr. William Calin, Dr. James Jones, Dr. Stephen Pearton, Dr. Jose Principe, Dr. Henri Van Rinsvelt

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. Mark Brenner, Ms. Beckie Preston, Mr. Bill Radunovich, Dr. Time Wheeler

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt, Ms. Linda Vivian, Ms. Gann Enholm, Ms. Helen Martin, Ms. Lorna Dishman

Dr. Winfred Phillips, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

I. ACTION ITEMS

1. The minutes of the January 16, 2003 Graduate Council meeting were approved unanimously with the addition of the effective date for the Master of Engineering proposal.
2. Dr. Mark Brenner from the Land Use and Environmental Change Institute presented a petition requesting the approval of Joseph Christian Russell, a doctoral student in anthropology to serve in a nontenure faculty position as assistant research scientist in the institute. Anthropology is a participating department. Dr. Brenner is the employment supervisor and does not serve on the committee. There is no overlap or conflict of interest between the roles as faculty and graduate student. *The Council approved the petition unanimously.*
3. Dr. Timothy Wheeler from the College of Dentistry presented a proposal for a project-in-lieu-of thesis for the MS in dental sciences concentrations in endodontics and prosthodontics. International students need the MS degree to practice the specialty in their countries. Upon completion, the student will present the results of the project to he supervisory committee and pass an oral examination. Council members recommended that the project be comparable to the written thesis in reflecting the integration of research, knowledge, and practice. *The Council approved the proposal in a 7 to 1 vote, effective Summer 2003.*
4. Dean Pramod Khargonekar from the College of Engineering presented their proposal for the nonthesis Master of Science degree that was tabled at the last meeting. The request is for engineering programs to reduce the number of total credits from 32 to 30 and eliminate the requirement for a comprehensive examination. The Master of Science degree is for students with or without an engineering degree. Many other institutions offer similar master's programs designed for a one-year completion, which minimizes time to degree and cost for tuition waivers.

Because the MS degree is a university-wide degree representing over one-quarter of graduates, the Council decided to address the proposal within a university context and consider the minimum requirements for all nonthesis Master of Science and Master of Arts degrees. Most of our peer institutions use a 30-credit minimum requirement and this places departments at a disadvantage for recruiting students. However, the Council affirmed the requirement for a comprehensive examination, acknowledging that there will be variation in form and content between disciplines. *The Council approved lowering the minimum requirement to 30 credits for all MS and MA nonthesis degrees and options, effective Fall 2003.*

5. The Council finalized the slate of nominees to be Thomas Crisman from environmental engineering sciences, Robert Holt from zoology, Michael Martinez from political science, and David Tanner from physics. These nominees will be placed on the ballot for the 2003-2006 term.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.