

Minutes of Graduate Council Meeting of November 5, 1996

The meeting was called to order by Chair Don Madison at 3:30 pm:

1. The minutes of the meeting of October 15, 1996, were approved as corrected (the word 'equally' was deleted from the second sentence of item-1).
2. There were no announcements.
3. Vice Chancellor Walt Gadja reported that the doctoral faculty is still a required organization on each campus. After some discussion relating to the seeming uselessness of the doctoral faculty, Gary Patterson moved and it was seconded that Vice Chancellor Gadja discuss the need for the doctoral faculty with the other campus vice chancellors with the possible result of its eventual elimination. The motion passed.
4. Lokesh Dharani discussed the problem of C grades for outdated graduate courses (which graduate students took several years ago). Such grades are a problem for graduate students who earned them during an earlier session of graduate school (here or elsewhere) but dropped out without earning a degree. If the grades were given more than six years ago, the courses cannot be used for current credit but the C grades count in the total C-credit, which cannot exceed 10 credit hours. Dharani moved and it was seconded that C grades for courses that cannot be counted for graduate credit because of time passed since the C grades were awarded not be included in the total of C-credit. The motion passed. This will require a change in the Graduate Catalog statement concerning total allowable C-credit.
5. Report by the chair on issues that arose during the recent brown bag discussion:
  - a. Improve graduate student recruiting - After discussion it was moved and seconded that the chairman contact the campus recruiting and retention committees and ask them to work on improvements in campus efforts on graduate student recruiting. The motion passed.
  - b. Develop graduate curricula more attractive to industry - The chair will appoint a committee to look at alternate curricula for practice oriented masters degrees and other approaches.
  - c. Improve climate and UMR attractiveness for prospective graduate students. No conclusions were reached.
6. Vice Chancellor Gadja lead a discussion on the need and alternative funding methods for a graduate dean. Many voiced the opinion that such a post be oriented toward research advocacy and not as a graduate records paper shuffling office, since the schools and college are handling that aspect now. Funding for the graduate office could come from two possible sources according to the vice chancellor: (1) the dissolution of the vice chancellor office with dispersal of its various duties or (2) an increase of the withholding of indirect by raising the threshold by the amount to fund the office (\$200,000 to 400,000?). Al Crosbie suggested that new general operating funds be sought for the office. Paul Stigall mentioned that the Research Policy Committee, chaired by

Vittal Rao, is trying to develop a job description for a graduate dean. The description depends on what benefit is sought from the office and whether the new position would be 1/4,1/2,or full time. He suggested that a solution to the funding problem would be to rename the vice chancellor position as "Vice Chancellor and Dean of Graduate Studies". Others felt that the vice chancellor position is overloaded already. Chair Don Madison proposed to wait for the results of the deliberations of the Research Policy Committee.

7. Nicholas Tsoulfanidis reported on a survey of stipends offered to graduate students at other universities:

Kansas State	\$7700	masters
	8100	doctoral
Texas A&M	8100	
UMC	9200-9900	
U. of Florida	9600	
Penn. State	10600	
UMR	12300	
U. of Wisconsin	14200	
U. of Illinois	13700	level 1
	14500	level 2 (passed qualifer)
	15400	level 3 (passed compreh.)
Georgia Tech.	16900	

After discussion there was no interest apparent in the council for raising the Stipend X beyond the usual annual increases. Discussion to form a committee to get more information on offers from other universities did not reach a conclusion.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.