

Minutes of the Graduate Council Meeting of August 23, 1999

The meeting was called to order by Chair Don Madison at 3:30 in the Mark Twain Room.

Chair Madison read the list of new committee members as follows:

Campus Curriculum Committee

Matt Insall

Budgetary Affairs Committee

Harry Sauer

Jerry Westphal

Research Policy Committee

Al Crosbie

Kakkattukuzhy Isaac

Michael Van De Mark

Joe Newkirk

Membership Committee

Dan Waddill (chair) A&S

Tom Petry Eng.

Neil Anderson M&M

Chair Madison led a discussion about how to pay graduates the Stipend X for 1999-2000. It was suggested that fees and tuition be paid first by the department for students on GTA or state-funded GRA appointments, then the student would receive the balance of the stipend as taxable compensation. For grant- and contract- paid graduate students, the stipend split between fees-tuition and compensation would be decided by the advisor and the student. No action was needed by the graduate faculty.

The amount of the increase of Stipend X for 1999-2000 was discussed and there was strong sentiment for a strong increase but that only a moderate one is possible. Patterson moved and Stigall seconded that the requested increase in Stipend X be at least equivalent to the rate of inflation over the past year.

The MS in Systems Engineering was presented for the second time by Keith Stanek, substituting for Henry Wiebe. The new degree was formulated in response to an RFP by Boeing Corporation. Part-time students will make up about 80% of the enrollment according to projections. The start time of the program has slipped to January 2000,

assuming approval of the degree. The MS degree, as opposed to the Master of Engineering, was specifically requested by Boeing. It will be a 30-hour degree with no thesis and no comprehensive exam. Our present rules require 33 hours and a comprehensive exam for a non-thesis MS degree.

Patterson moved and Dharani seconded that the graduate faculty be advised to endorse the MS in Systems Engineering degree as presented. Johnson and Saperstein recommended that a change be made to specify that the present rules be changed to specify 30 hours as the minimum for the MS without thesis. Johnson moved and Dharani seconded a motion to that effect and it passed. Saperstein moved and Dharani seconded that the comprehensive exam for MS without thesis be made optional. The motion passed. The main motion on the new degree was voted on and passed.

Partho Neogi initiated a discussion about unfunded foreign graduate students leaving UMR or changing departments after only one semester here. The discussion brought out that the problem was discussed at the Graduate Council meeting of October 6, 1998. At that time the council voted to release students for transfer only after they had completed one full semester and to require a release form from another university for those transferring here. The sense of the body was that nothing could be done to hold graduate students after one semester if they wish to transfer.

The problem of graduate students transferring within UMR was discussed. Lutz moved and Roy seconded that Admissions be requested to develop a system to inform the first department if a new graduate student wishes to transfer to a second department. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Submitted by Gary Patterson, Secretary