

Graduate Council Minutes

April 25, 2003

The Graduate Council met at 2:30 p.m. in the Cope Conference Room. Chair Ellen Slicker presided.

I. Call to Order

Members present: Drs. Frank Bailey, Claudia Barnett, Thomas Berg, John Bodle, Jackie Eller, Bichaka Fayissa, David Foote, Edward Friz/Student, Harold Henn/Student, Tom Hutchison, Terrence Lee, Phil Mathis, Vincent Smith, Norman Weatherby

Ex-officio members present: Dean Donald Curry, Associate Dean Peter Cunningham

Guests: Dr. Kaylene Gebert, Dr. Gloria Bonner, Dr. Connie Jones, Dr. Stephen Shearon, and Lisa Mitchell

II. Dr. Kaylene Gebert, Executive Vice President & Provost

Dr. Gebert noted that this is an exciting time for the graduate programs at MTSU and detailed her visions and goals. Immediate plans include intensifying work to strengthen and build the masters' programs and meeting with the various Ph.D. committees to further develop these programs and to include perusal and input from outside sources. Although there will be much time, money and skill involved in development MTSU has a real opportunity to increase educational levels at both state and regional levels. She also noted that we have a great deal of flexibility as to how we wish to define these programs and will be relying on the Graduate Council to help define these roles and work through any problems that may arise. Standards and criteria are important however consistency is key during the conversion process.

Questions from members of the council were entertained and Dr. Gebert concluded by stating that focus should be placed on retaining the best of our undergraduates and making sure that we are generating resources from as many outside sources as possible through external grants, community, alumni, etc, and asked that any ideas or sources for accomplishing this be forwarded to her.

III. Suspension Committee

Lisa Mitchell, Graduate Office, asked for four volunteers to reside on the committee for the summer semester. The appeals will be scheduled on Thursday, May 29, 2003. Ellen Slicker, Tom Berg, David Foote, Edward Friz, and Jackie Eller will serve on the committee.

IV. Regents Online Degree Program – Masters' Degree in Education

Drs. Gloria Bonner and Connie Jones briefed the Council on the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) decision to direct the RODP to develop and deliver a Master's degree in education. Each TBR institution will provide up to three (3) courses in the thirty-three (33) hour degree program. Dr. Willis Means will direct the first course to be offered in the 2003 fall semester. Staff will be trained this summer at the Renaissance Center in Dickson, Tennessee. The floor was opened to questions and/or concerns of the council and fielded by Dr. Bonner and Dr. Jones. After much discussion the council agreed to the following:

"With regards to the Regents Online Degree Program Master's Degree in Education, the council moved to request additional information regarding proposed new courses and curriculum be presented to the Faculty and Program Review sub-committee for review and approval. In order to process as expeditiously as possible the full Graduate Council defers any judgment or decision regarding this information to the sub-committee for approval."

Dr. Ellen Slicker will prepare a letter with the above and forward to the appropriate persons involved.

V. Approval of Minutes – March 28, 2003

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the March 28, 2003 meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.

VI. Sub-Committee Reports

A. Graduate Faculty and Program Review

Dr. Claudia Barnett, Chair

Consent calendar attached – all items have been recommended for approval.

With the development of a new graduate catalog this year, the Council deemed it necessary for this committee to have an additional meeting during the summer semester in order to incorporate all curriculum changes in the new catalog. The date of the meeting is to be announced.

B. Student Affairs and Travel

Dr. Thomas Berg, Chair

No report on Student Travel Account as there has been no activity since the last meeting.

C. Policies and Procedures

Dr. Vincent Smith, Chair

No report

VII. Old Business

- Thesis and Dissertation Checklist

Dr. Peter Cunningham, Associate Dean

The Council moved to adopt the proposed checklist and distribute to all graduate faculty. This signed checklist will be required when all thesis/dissertations are turned in to the Graduate Office.

VIII. New Business

- 3000/5000 Cross-listed Courses – Music Department

The Council moved to pass the request for cross-listed courses in the Music Department.

IX. Announcements

- Dean Curry announced that the Associate Dean position previously cut from the budget had been re-instated by Academic Affairs.
- It was with mixed emotions that Dean Curry announced his retirement from MTSU and his position as Vice Provost for Research and Dean, College of Graduate Studies effective June 30, 2003. He noted the accomplishments and growth of the graduate program during his tenure, thanked the council for their support, leadership, and expertise, and charged the council to continue this forward momentum and growth.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted: Lynn Parker
Recording Secretary