GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES
January 17, 2007
Approved: February 21, 2007

Present: Dave Downing, Tom Blume, Donna Free, Frances Jackson, Mildred Merz, Meir
Shillor, Joseph Shively, Lorenzo Smith, Kris Thompson, Mohamed Zohdy
Absent: Lisa Hawley
Guests: Bhushan Bhatt, Ishwar Sethi, Gautam Singh
Staff: Julie Delaney, Lynette Folken, Eilene Lohmeier

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was convened at 2:00 pm by D. Downing, Chair

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

D. Downing presented the November 8, 2006 minutes and entertained a motion to approve.

MOTION made by F. Jackson to approve the minutes of November 8, 2006 as presented.
Seconded and passed without corrections.

III. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- D. Downing reported that graduate enrollment has increased on the first day of registration by approximately 11% over last year's enrollment figures. Faculty and staff were thanked for their contributions to the success of this initiative.
- A Graduate Open House is scheduled for Thursday, February 15, 2007 from 5:30 – 7:00 pm in the Oakland Center Banquet Rooms.
- A new wave of marketing is scheduled to begin January 24th which will target adult learners.
- D. Downing reported that an outside firm specializing in the promotion of graduate education and adult learning education has been identified. First time funds have been allocated to brand graduate education at Oakland University over the next few months. Pending continued funding, the next phase will be program specific marketing.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Proposal for a Ph.D. program in Computer Science and Informatics – 1st Reading

D. Downing presented the 1st Reading of the proposal from SECS, "Ph.D. program in Computer Science and Informatics" and entertained a motion.

MOTION made by M. Shillor to approve the 1st Reading of the proposal from SECS for a Ph.D. program in Computer Science and Informatics. Seconded.

Following introductions, B. Bhatt presented a historical overview of the SECS Systems Engineering doctoral program. Initially, the State of Michigan controlled the number institutions allowed to award doctoral degrees. To receive State approval to provide a doctoral degree in engineering, Oakland University developed a unique doctoral program in transportation systems that would be inclusive of all other disciplines. The Systems Engineering doctorate designation has become an umbrella for producing doctoral dissertations in the various engineering specialties. This "System's" umbrella added dimension to the doctoral level in the beginning. Current market forces have substantiated the need for Ph.D. programs in specific disciplines. B. Bhatt stated that the computer science designation is a very different program from the other engineering specialties. A recent survey of prospective students supports the need for doctoral degrees that are reflective of specific designations.

SECS is supportive that more designation specific program(s) will increase student interest and future growth both locally and internationally; similar to the growth experienced in the mechanical engineering program. The Department has also received student support to continue the existing "Systems Engineering" program in order to provide an umbrella of opportunity for those wishing to secure a degree in Systems Engineering.

G. Singh expressed concern that the designation of "Systems Engineering" is a misrepresentation of the qualifications of our computer science Ph.D. students and jeopardizing job opportunities.

Graduate Council recommended the following changes:

- Clarify confusing language: Does this proposal replace the current Systems Engineering designation or will it be a new doctoral designation.
- Proforma Income Statement: Clarification of increased student enrollment numbers.
- Recommended to separate oral qualifying examination and proposed research plan. It was agreed to require only the preliminary oral qualifying exam.
- Recommended to add committee approval dates on the proposal face sheet.
- Recommended to address the student to faculty ratio (1000 students to 15 faculty).
- Recommended to clarify current library holdings and/or purchases of required journals. Review budget: new purchases, appears under budgeted for some "highly recommended" materials, yearly inflation allowance.
- Soften language relating to teaching competency.
- In lieu of letters of recommendation, it was recommended to require specific competency forms.
- Address budget deficit issues.
- TOEFL is a university requirement for admission and it was recommended that this reference be deleted.
- Reconsider GPA requirement of 3.5 since 3.0 is passing for a master degree.
- Employers are looking more at concentrations rather than Ph.D in Engineering. It was recommended due to market demand to include in the proposal a provision which allows the specialty of Ph.D. in Computer Science and Informatics to be included on student transcripts and degrees.
- Review and list all courses.

D. Downing thanked B. Bhatt, I. Sethi and G. Singh for their participation. SECS will respond to the above Graduate Council concerns and their responses which will be forwarded to the members. The proposal will then be placed on the next Graduate Council agenda for its 2nd Reading. F. Jackson assured SECS that every effort will be made to expedite their request for approval.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Master of Education in teacher leadership - 2nd Reading

D. Downing presented the proposal from SEHS, Master of Education in teacher leadership.

Discussion. None

D. Downing called the question. MOTION to approve the proposal "Master of Education in teacher leadership."

AYES - All NO – 0 PASSED.

D. Downing will notify the Department.

VI. GOOD AND WELFARE

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for January 31, 2007.