

GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

September 28, 2005

Approved: October 12, 2005

Present: Tom Blume, David Downing, Krzystof Kobus, Lisa Hawley, Mildred Merz, Claire Rammel, Meir Shillor, Joseph Shively, and Kris Thompson

Absent: Mohinder Parkash, Darlene Schott-Baer

Guests: Ken Hightower, Charles McGlothlin, Kathleen Moore, and Jackie Wiggins

Staff: Julie Delaney, Lynette Folken

Call to Order

The meeting was convened at 2:15 p. m. by David Downing, Chair

I. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

David Downing introduced himself as the newly appointed Interim Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Academic Administration. As well as assuming the chairmanship of the Graduate Council, Mr. Downing is responsible for Academic Administration, Graduate Education and Outreach. He serves as the senior administrative leader to the provost and president in the expansion of academic outreach and community development and provides support and direction in academic planning initiatives. He provides leadership for Graduate Study and Lifelong Learning, Graduate Admissions, Office of the Registrar and Academic Records. This year's Council members introduced themselves, including new members Tom Blume, Department of Counseling (SEHS) and Joseph Shively of the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance (CAS).

For the benefit of those present, Mr. Downing distributed copies of the Bylaws of the Graduate Council, the University Senate Constitution, as well as a preliminary list of agenda items to be addressed this academic year. New proposals include a Master of Science in Industrial Systems Engineering and two dual partnership programs with Cooley Law School (JD) and the MBA and MPA degrees (MBA/JD and MPA/JD). Among the policy issues to be addressed in Graduate Council is the resuscitation of program review at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Mr. Downing indicated he had been briefed on the new program review process implemented last year. He asked the members to share their thoughts on the merits, as well as areas where it could be improved.

II. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Claire Rammel reported that Graduate Study currently has assigned two dismissal cases to committees. After serving on several dismissal review committees, Darlene Schott-Baer had offered some very constructive suggestions on how to improve and expedite the appeal dismissal process.

Mr. Downing reported that at a press conference, hosted on August 29th at the Macomb University Center, Gary Russi, Al Lorenzo (President, Macomb Community College) and Lieutenant Governor John D. Cherry, Jr. announced the new dual enrollment initiative with Macomb Community College. The Dual Enrollment program is designed to allow qualified students concurrent access to Oakland University and Macomb Community College. Dual enrollment students can attend classes (including on-line courses) at either institution, use financial aid at both schools, and have the option of using facilities and services at either campus. One goal of the dual enrollment program is to enable students to seamlessly earn both an associates and baccalaureate degree.

III. OLD BUSINESS

First Reading: Ph.D. in Music Education

Jackie Wiggins summarized the changes made in the latest version of the proposal and reiterated that, essentially, the only changes between the existing cognate and the proposed Ph.D. in Music Education, are in the areas of governance and flexibility in coursework.

Kris Thompson commented on the large number of credits required for the degree. Ms. Wiggins replied that this is a credit heavy degree at all institutions, because each student must become an expert in everything in the music education area.

To questions posed regarding the number of existing students in the program and how many the department expected to recruit, Ms. Wiggins stated that six students are currently enrolled with an expectation of three admitted each year (with the flexibility to take 4). She explained that music education programs at all institutions tend to be small.

On behalf of Darlene Schott-Baer, who was not able to be present at the meeting, Mr. Downing raised her concern about the total number of elective courses (20 credits) in the proposed program compared to other programs at MSU, etc. Ms. Wiggins replied that the total number of elective credits at other institutions is lower and reminded those present that elective courses are not lesser quality courses. Ms. Thompson questioned the credit distribution. Since other programs have less elective courses, do other programs have more required music courses? It is difficult to become an expert in everything. It also means you must have a more diverse group of faculty. With your small faculty, will this be a problem? Ms. Wiggins replied that the faculty was diverse.

Lisa Hawley asked if there is an accreditation body for this program, to which Ms. Wiggins replied that it had already been approved. Ms. Hawley asked how it could be accredited before the program was approved. Ms. Wiggins said it was approved at the master's level and the doctoral students will be enrolled in the same classes.

MOTION was made, Seconded and Passed, to waive a second reading of the Ph.D. in Music Education proposal. The motion was unanimously approved.

MOTION was made, Seconded and Passed, to approve the proposal as presented, with possible modification of the budget. The motion was unanimously approved.

Redirect: Master of Science in Safety Management

Ken Hightower, Dean of the School of Health Sciences, was invited to discuss the concerns expressed by the Senate Planning and Review Committee (SPRC) and how these issues had been addressed in the revised proposal. Mr. Hightower stated that instead of incorporating the changes into the proposal, a document had been prepared for Graduate Council that specifically addressed the concerns expressed by SPRC.

Charles McGlothlin reported that since he presented the original proposal to Council last year, DaimlerChrysler had awarded him a grant for \$30,000 to develop a curriculum for the proposed program. With these funds he has been able to contract four content experts at three different universities around the country to develop four of the five or six courses needed for the master's program. In addition, DaimlerChrysler will sponsor a \$10,000 scholarship.

Mr. Downing acknowledged the concerns expressed by SPRC regarding limited faculty resources, but suggested that the proposed program is following a model comparable to other successful programs at Oakland. He reported that SPRC did not want to discourage the program, but had many concerns that needed to be addressed. SPRC is expecting a response to their memo.

According to Mr. Downing, the next step in the process is a response from Graduate Council to SPRC. A response will be drafted, incorporating the materials presented in the packet submitted by the School of Health Sciences.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Graduate Council Officers

MOTION was made, Seconded and Passed to accept the appointment of Darlene-Schott-Baer as Vice-Chair, Claire Rammel as Parliamentarian, and Lynette Folken as Secretary.

Graduate Courses Required for Undergraduate Programs

David Downing described a situation where a 500-level music course is being required for completion of an undergraduate degree. This has raised strong concerns with UCUI and the General Education committee. Mr. Downing outlined the potential complications this could present and opened the subject to Council for discussion. Joseph Shively responded by informing those present that he had inherited the course in questions, and the department will be renumbering the course soon.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:04 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 12, 2005.