Minutes of University Graduate Council
December 9, 2009

Present: CHAIR Tim McDermott (AG), Bonita Peterson (BUS), William Ruff (EHHD), Warren Jones (ENGR), Carl Fox (DGE), Robert Bennett (L&S-Letters), Yves Idzerda (L&S-Science), Jane Scharff (NURS), Mark Huff (STUDENT), Richard Wojtowicz (Faculty Senate).

Also attending was Anne Camper (ENGR).

Meeting commenced at 11:08 a.m. in 325 Leon Johnson.

Approval of Minutes

- Minutes for November 18th – moved, seconded and approved.

Master of Engineering Proposal

a. Parallel track to the existing Master of Science degrees in Engineering.
   a. Courses only.
   b. No comprehensive exams.
   c. No professional paper or thesis.
   d. No formal graduate committee.
      i. Instead an option coordinator will monitor student involvement.
   e. A maximum of 12 credits of 4XX level coursework (as opposed to the standard 9 credits).
      i. Allows top undergraduate seniors to accumulate graduate coursework before entering the graduate program.
   b. Independent study courses will be used to give students topical information in areas that aren’t covered in any particular course.
      a. Would not be project or lab material.
   c. Not every department in the College of Engineering will offer this courses only master’s degree.
   d. Individual departments have drafted their own general and specific requirements for the proposal.
      a. Similar to PhD degrees in Engineering.
   e. This degree is not specifically designed to prepare students to take the Professional Engineering (PE) exam, though it would be beneficial.
      a. To take the PE exam, students must first work with a licensed, professional engineer.
      b. Students will also complete an additional 30 credits of post-baccalaureate coursework to take the PE. This is not a formal requirement now, but will be in the future, though that deadline has not been set.
         i. The M Eng. degree would satisfy this requirement. However, it is designed to make engineering students more effective in their field and not to prepare them for the exam.
   f. The college prefers the Master of Engineering degree be clearly separate from the Master of Science in Engineering degree.
      a. Faculty did not want a courses only Master of Science degree.
   g. Who decides which classes fit each concentration?
i. Each department has a very active graduate committee that will categorize courses.
h. Courses in engineering that have typically been offered every other year because of low enrollment could potentially be offered every year with M Eng. students increasing course population.
   a. Though this will require some additional faculty resources, engineering departments do not feel that this is an unnecessary burden.
   i. Faculty would like to increase enrollment, and also decrease the time to graduation for many students.
i. There is already a plan B Master of Science option, so why does MSU need a courses only Master's degree?
   a. Reduce faculty load for advising.
   b. Students in this program will not be offered GTA or RA positions, so they will be paying full tuition on their own.
   c. No comprehensive exam reduces the use of MSU resources.
   d. Increases student enrollment.
j. The department should and will consider co-convening 4XX and 5XX level courses.
   a. Add rigor to 4XX level courses.
k. Are we considering making this a 4+1 or 3+2 program?
   a. The intention is to go seamless at some point.
   b. The goal is to generate revenue.
   c. This is the direction that most universities are heading.
l. How many students would be expected to enroll?
   a. Most departments speculated that they would have 5-10 new students the first semester.
m. All students will file a program of study with the DGE.

Motion: Moved to recommend the proposal for Master of Engineering degree as written to the Provost. Motion seconded, and approved.

Meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

Catherine Dale, UGC Secretary
Division of Graduate Education