

Minutes of **University Graduate Council**
September 28, 2010

Present: Chris Livingston (AA), Bonita Peterson (BUS), Chair William Ruff (EDUC), Warren Jones (ENGR), Carl Fox (DGE), Tim McDermott (AG) Robert Bennett (L&S-Letters), Yves Idzerda (L&S-Science), Kelli Begley (NURS).

Also attending were Steve Cherry (MATH), Nathalie Caillaud (OIP), and Donna Negaard (DGE).

Meeting commenced at 1:06 p.m. in 114 Sherrick Hall.

Approval of Minutes

- Minutes for May 06, 2010 – moved, seconded and approved

Open Campus Forum

- Post-Doctoral Excellence Program has received nine applications. The applicants are outstanding, and it will be difficult to choose just two.

Committee Reports

None

Graduate Certificate in Applied Statistics

- a. This certificate should fill the need for official training in statistics on campus, and would be recorded on a student's transcript as such.
 - a. Collecting and analyzing data is often a major part of graduate research, and a background in statistics is critical.
- b. This proposal has been taken to the Academic Affairs Committee at Faculty Senate. They also moved to recommend Math's proposal.
- c. The certificate requires courses 410/412 and 511/512, which are data analysis courses with emphasis on inference, interpretation, and result presentation.
 - a. These courses essentially act as pre-requisites to appropriately prepare students before they move on to more specialized coursework.

Motion: Move to recommend proposal as written. Motion seconded, and approved.

480 Credits on Graduate Programs of Study

- a. A policy stating that 480s are not allowed on a graduate program of study has been inconsistently represented on DGEs website as well as in the MSU catalog.
 - a. Some departments are using 480s for new course requests more often than 580s.

- b. New course requests could be revised to include the option to specify whether or not the department intends to allow the course to be used towards graduate credit.

Motion: Move to remove policy stating that 480s are not allowed on graduate programs of study, and to revise 480 course requests. Motion seconded, and approved.

689 Credits on Masters' Programs of Study

- a. Should Graduate Research credits (689s) be allowed on a masters' program of study?
 - a. Not all graduate departments offer 689s.
 - b. A student is required to be in a graduate standing, and in some cases to be registered for thesis or dissertation credits in order to register for 689s.
- b. Graduate Consultation credits (589s) are not allowed on programs of study.
 - a. 589 credits serve a different purpose than 689 credits because of the research component.

Recommend to forward this issue to the Curriculum Committee to analyze the purpose and use of 589 and 689 credits.

DGE Staff Reports

- Division of Graduate Education would like to change their name to the Graduate School at MSU, but Board of Regents' consideration of name changes has been postponed until November/December.
- The National Research Council's report on doctoral programs has been released.
- MSU's new governance councils have changed some of our processes slightly.
- GTA roundtables are open to new faculty as well as students.

DGE Exit Survey

- a. Please submit comments to DGE.
- b. Getting students to fill the survey out can be a challenge & DGE will have to consider different strategies to get optimal participation.

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Catherine Dale, UGC Secretary
Division of Graduate Education