

Graduate Council Minutes April 25, 2002

The Graduate Council met at 3:30 P.M. in the Cope Conference Room. Chair Stephen Shearon presided.

I. Call to order

Members present: Drs. Claudia Barnett, John Bodle, Mamit Deme, David Foote, Terrence Lee, Jan Leone, Peggy O'Hara Murdock, Mary Nichols, Ellen Slicker, Vincent Smith, Andrew Worsey, Barbara Young

Ex-officio member present: Dean Donald Curry

Others present: President Sidney McPhee, Dr. Pam Holder and Dr. Maria Smith/Nursing Department, Karen Demonbreum & Ronda Sullivan/Graduate Office, Dr. Peter Cunningham/HPERS/Graduate Studies

II. President Sidney A. McPhee

- President McPhee addressed the Graduate Council on graduate education, research and creative activity issues. He stated that research is integrated into teaching, they go hand in hand. Faculty do a good job involving students in research. He believes MTSU has low external funding for a university of this size. There are several things that the administration can do to help support research, such as, allocate dollars for graduate assistant stipends support to faculty by giving them release time and a reassigned teaching load for research activities. We cannot expect faculty to engage in research with a full teaching load.
- The University has made significant progress over the years, but the Geier lawsuit and ramifications have had a negative impact. Graduate growth at MTSU has been slowed because of Geier. A year and half ago the 1984 agreement was replaced and there is hope for change. We thought at that time the moratorium would be lifted and allow MTSU to seek more graduate programs. Our sister institutions have grown at both the MA and doctoral levels. Other comparable universities have shown graduate growth. It is wise and prudent to be strategic and realistic at this time.
- He does not see much growth in new Ph.D. programs. The probability of adding new MA's would be greater, he feels, in the next 5 years.
- Do not overact to the new moratorium placed because of the state budget crisis.
- He is excited as President about the possibilities of growth at the graduate level, but he does not want this growth to be at the expense of the undergraduate program.
- The conversion of the D.A.'s will continue to be a top priority. The Ph.D. proposals were presented to THEC almost two years ago, and they have sat on them stating that they could not be approved because (1) too costly, (2) not quality, although they went through rigorous reviews showing they are high quality, and (3) low producing (we have tried to tell THEC this problem exists for the past 7-8 years, and is a primary reason why we need the conversion).
- He stated that he has been in his first year learning curve, watching and learning.
- The mission of the university should be a balance between research, creative activity, teaching and service.

Q. Can THEC disestablish our low producing programs?

A. Yes

Q. What is your feeling or insight regarding THEC having a negative attitude toward MTSU?

A. This is purely speculation that THEC views MTSU as having grown into a major university and

there is East-West competition (Memphis-Knoxville). This makes everyone concerned and a little nervous.

Q. Should reassigned time be based on research?

A. I don't want to tell the departments what to do. A campus wide framework or expectation should be established leaving some degree of flexibility for the departments. An issue of greater concern is clearly release time should be centered around the activity that the faculty member is engaged in. It should not be used to give free time without accountability.

Q. Should faculty or the Graduate Council take a role in being an advocate with TBR and THEC?

A. Yes, there is a role that each could play. Commission members make decisions, we can write letters, make phone calls or use any form of communication to get our voice heard.

Q. What should we tell D.A. students who are currently enrolled about the progress of the Ph.D. conversion?

A. I have not given up yet on the conversion and will not give up until the last soldier falls. I will work through and with Commission members sharing with them the positive reviewer's reports and explaining there would be no additional costs involved. I am currently working on a letter to move some of the D.A. programs off of the low producing list and to move forward with the conversion. Hopefully by summer we will have a good sense of what will happen. Focus on the commissioners. The members names are on the THEC web page.

Q. There were two noticeable representatives missing from the inauguration platform, why?

A. They were invited.

President McPhee's closing remarks were: These are important times, keep positive, the University will not fall apart, we will find ways to do well.

III. Approval of Minutes - March 21, 2002

IV. Announcements

A. Dean Donald Curry

(1) Library Check-out Policy

A suggestion for improving library services to graduate students was forwarded to the Graduate Council by the History Department. The following suggestions were approved by the Graduate Council and recommended that they be forwarded to the Vice Provost's Office for further action.

Suggestions for Improving Library Service to Graduate Students

1) Number of books: Increase the number allowed to be checked out by graduate students to 50 or more per student. Considering that during each semester, they concurrently work on a thesis (or dissertation), at least one large research paper per class, and an average of two smaller papers per class, one student would easily need to use 50 books. This would also likely eliminate the need to place books on hold.

2) Check out period: Increase the time, preferably to one semester. Not only would that allow students the desired perusal time, it would eliminate the problem of keeping up with elusive scraps of paper showing various due dates. Such a policy would include a provision for return within three days of any book specifically requested by another graduate student.

- 3) Special Collections: Maintain regular library hours or at least one or two night or weekend openings.
- 4) Hours: Maintain later hours Friday and Saturday nights and remain open during holidays and breaks - the times when most graduate students concentrate their research. The consensus is that 10 p.m. Fridays and 7:00 p.m. Saturdays would be helpful.
- 5) Interlibrary Loan: Increase the number of requests allowed at one time. Because of the delay involved in learning when these times are unavailable, research is often delayed to a crisis point.

(2) Combined Master's / Doctorate Programs

A recommendation was approved by the Graduate Council to allow the conferral of the master's degree to doctoral students who have completed all master's requirements at MTSU during their doctoral program progression. This opportunity will be restricted to students who do not hold the master's in the doctoral field.

Upon completion of the master's, the students will remain in the doctoral program. With the approval of the graduate advisor and the graduate dean, all relevant courses that were used toward completion of the master's program will also apply toward completion of the doctoral requirements.

The recommendation will be forwarded to the Vice Provost's Office for approval.

(3) Other

Dean Curry announced that Ronda Sullivan will be leaving the University in the near future.

- (4) Dean Curry thanked the Council for demonstrating such diligence and hard work this year.

B. Dr. Peter Cunningham

- (1) CGS/Sloan Professional Master's Study

We have received funding for the feasibility study for a new Master's of Professional Science Degree. We received slightly more money we requested. We will be conducting the feasibility study and submit a report to the Council of Graduate Schools in October of. We have invited Dr. David Chapman, University of Utah, to come to campus in June to work with us in developing our proposal. He has worked with the Sloan Foundation in the development of this program. Also related MTSU sent representatives to Washington to present information on a similar professional master's degree for the social sciences at the invitation of the Council of Graduate Schools and the Ford Foundation. Dr. Lorne McWatters represented MTSU's Public History/Historic Preservation Program.

- (2) Master's Program Review Update

We have hosted external reviewers for both HPERS and Exercise Science and Health Promotion. Both reviewers have submitted their reports and in both cases our external review scores have increased over the previous report. Meetings with those programs will be scheduled for June.

- (3) The Warren Graduate Scholarship for Public School Teachers or Administrators in Tennessee. We had 45 applicants for this scholarship. Two scholarships were

awarded to cover tuition and fees for 12 graduate credits during the 2002/2003 academic year. The committee also identified two alternates and awarded them a tuition scholarship equal to 3 graduate credits.

V. Sub-Committee Reports

A. Graduate Faculty and Program Review

Dr. Ellen Slicker, Chair

- (1) Music 3190/5190 - New Course - General Music in the Middle and Senior High School, 2 credit hours - Approved
- (2) Music 3220/5220 - New Course - Choral Music in the Middle and Senior High School, 2 credit hours - Approved
- (3) Consent calendar attached - all items have been approved.

B. Student Affairs and Travel

Dr. Thomas Berg, Chair

Dr. Cunningham reported that beginning with a balance of \$15,000, twenty nine (29) student travel grants have been awarded totaling \$13,240.60. The balance remaining in the account is \$1,759.40.

C. Policies and Procedures

Dr. Vincent Smith, Chair

Dr. Smith thanked his subcommittee for all their hard work this year.

VI. Old Business

VII. New Business

- (1) Master of Science in Nursing - Advanced Practice Nursing Proposal with concentrations in Nursing Administration, Nursing Education, Clinical Nursing Specialist and Nursing Informatics was presented to the Graduate Council by Dr. Pam Holder, Nursing Department Chair, for approval in principle. The formal approval of courses will be contingent upon TBR approving the program. If any further action is required over the summer the Faculty and Program Review Subcommittee will handle.
- (2) First order of business next fall will be to choose a Vice Chair

Respectfully submitted by Ronda Sullivan, Recording Secretary.

Graduate Council - Consent Calendar

Graduate Faculty Memberships

Doctoral Membership - Initial Appointment

Claudia Barnett / English

Will Brantley / English

Norman Weatherby / HPERs

Full Membership - Re-Appointment

Janet Belsky / Psychology

Al Cripps / Computer Science

Duane Graddy / Economics and Finance

William Levine / English

Dellmar Walker / Human Sciences

William Whitehill / HPERs

Associate Level 2 Membership

Ann Campbell / Elementary & Special Education

Joyce Harrison / Human Sciences

Ronald McBride / ETIS

Adjunct Membership

Jeanette Norden / Dyslexic Studies

Barbara Porter / Dyslexic Studies

***** Curriculum Changes *****

Chemistry

Revisions in Admission/Degree Curriculum Requirements - effective fall 2002

Master of Science in Chemistry - Admission Requirements Prospective students, in addition to meeting the general requirements of the Graduate School, must:

- a. possess a minor in chemistry of at least 19 semester hours or its equivalent.
- b. provide an acceptable score on the Graduate Record Examination.

Degree Requirements

1. Degree candidates must complete a minimum of 30 semester hours within the following guidelines:

a. complete the following core curriculum.

CHEM 6230 Intermediate Analytical Chemistry (4 credit hours)

CHEM 6300 Intermediate Physical Chemistry (3 credit hours)

CHEM 6100 Intermediate Organic Chemistry (3 credit hours)

CHEM 6400 Intermediate Inorganic Chemistry (3 credit hours)

Exceptionally well prepared students may substitute another approved chemistry course (5000 – 6000 level) for the core course by successful performance on a proficiency examination in that core curriculum area.

b. The remaining courses may come from approved graduate courses in chemistry or cognate courses in biology, mathematics, computer science, and physics. No more than 30 percent of the total degree hours may be dual listed undergraduate/graduate hours.

c. complete and present an original thesis approved by the student's advisory committee. CHEM 6870
Chemistry Research (3 credit hours)

CHEM 6640 Thesis Research (a minimum of 3 credit hours and no more than 8 credit hours may count toward the 30 hour degree requirement.)

CHEM 6800 Chemistry Seminar 1 credit hour)

2. Successfully complete five of six written examinations in the following areas of chemistry: analytical/instrumental, biochemistry, general, inorganic, organic, and physical chemistry. The exam in each area may be taken no more than twice.

3. File a Candidacy Form with the Graduate Office prior to the completion of 24 credit hours.

CHEM 7820 New Course: Seminar in Chemical Education
1 credit hour, effective fall 2002

Dyslexic Studies

DYST 6012 New Course: Multisensory Teaching Strategies
3 credit hours, effective summer 2002

Educational Leadership

Change Course Numbers, effective fall 2002

SPSE 6710 Practicum in ESL for PreK-3
Changed from CDFS 6700, Practicum in ESL for PreK-3

SPSE 6720 Practicum in ESL for 4-8
Changed from ELED 6700, Practicum in ESL for 4-8

English

New Courses: 3 credit hours, effective fall 2002

ENGL 6600/7600 Studies in Popular Culture
ENGL 6650/7650 Special Topics in Popular Culture

Music

New Courses, effective fall 2002

MUED 5260 The Application of Technology to Music Teaching, 2 credit hours
MUED 6621 Music Education Research Project, 3 credit hours
MUED 6632 Contemporary Issues and Research in Music Education, 3 credits

Psychology

School Psychology MA, PreSpecialist in Education: Remove the requirement of PSY 6000 - Orientation to School Psychology from the list of required courses.

Sociology

Revisions in Curriculum: All changes effective fall 2002.

Catalog changes:

(See pg. 152) Full admission for a degree-seeking candidate: ...letter of interest and goals, an example of written work, ...

Degree Requirements

Candidate must:

1. complete a minimum of 36 credit hours in graduate-level courses, 24 of which must be graduate level sociology courses with no more than 9 of the 36 hours dual-listed as ...
2. complete all required courses, including SOC 6560, 6620, 6720, and 6660 or 6010 with a minimum grade of B-;
3. complete 6 credit hours...thesis (see attached discussion of options within thesis)

In addition to those core courses students will complete either:

A. Traditional Thesis Option

The traditional thesis option involves an original project that allows the student to demonstrate her/his ability to integrate theory and research to a problem/issue in sociology. It will be coordinated with the student's major interests, coursework, and practical experience to allow the development of an area of specialization. The audience of the Traditional Thesis is generally others in the discipline of sociology. The product of the traditional thesis option should have the potential to be presented at a professional conference and/or published in a professional journal. The Thesis must conform to the University Guidelines for Master's Theses.

Objectives:

- (1) To demonstrate an ability to articulate a problem or research question in the field of sociology.
- (2) To determine the role of theory and methodology appropriate to the investigation of the chosen problem/issue.
- (3) To develop a proposal to address the investigation of the chosen problem/issue incorporating both the relevance of the problem/issue and potential benefit of its investigation.
- (4) To demonstrate good writing and communication skills.
- (5) To complete a final product (examination of basic research and theoretical issues) appropriate for the advancement of sociological knowledge. The format of the final product is determined through careful consideration and intensive interaction with the student's graduate committee.

Assessment: The successful completion of this option will be determined by:

· Timely completion of the objectives listed above (beginning with the development of a graduate committee with whom the student will establish a timeline for completion). Oral defense of the student's completed work to her/his graduate committee, which must pass by a majority vote that includes the vote of the committee chairperson. The student must also meet the Master's Thesis requirements of the College of Graduate Studies at MTSU.

B. Applied Thesis Option

The applied thesis option involves an original project that allows the student to demonstrate his/her ability to apply the knowledge and skills he/she has learned in graduate school to a problem/issue related to the practice of sociology. This option requires the student to articulate a problem/issue in the field and to develop a plan for the investigation of the problem/issue. The audience is the professional group or agency for whom the student is designing the project. The product of the applied thesis option should have the potential to be presented at a professional conference and/or published in a professional applied journal in sociology or one with substantial sociological content.

Objectives:

- (1) To demonstrate an ability to articulate a problem or an issue in an applied field of sociology, such as gerontology or criminology (i.e., organizational, practical, etc.).
- (2) To determine the methodology appropriate to the investigation of the chosen problem/issue.
- (3) To develop a proposal to address the investigation of the chosen problem/issue incorporating both the relevance of the problem/issue and potential benefit of its investigation.
- (4) To demonstrate good writing and communication skills.
- (5) To complete a final product (program evaluation, small-scale community study, policy analysis, etc.) appropriate for the project. The format of the final product is determined through careful consideration and intensive interaction with the student's graduate committee.

Assessment: The successful completion of this option will be determined by:

- Timely completion of the objectives listed above (beginning with the development of a graduate committee with whom the student will establish a timeline for completion).
- Oral defense of the student's completed work to her/his graduate committee, which must pass by a majority vote that includes the vote of the committee chairperson.
- The student must also meet the Master's Thesis requirements of the College of Graduate Studies at MTSU.

SOC 5760 Change to Inactive Status: Kinship and Marriage

Name Changes

- SOC 6010** To: Social Policy Analysis
From: Seminar in Contemporary Welfare States and Social Policy
- SOC 6510** To: Independent Study
From: Readings
- SOC 6540** To: Topics in Crime and Deviance
From: Seminar in Deviant Behavior
- SOC 6560** To: Thinking Sociologically
From: Seminar in Contemporary Sociological Theory
- SOC 6620** To: Applied Quantitative Research Design
From: Quantitative Research Design
- SOC 6630** To: Seminar in the Family
From: Seminar in Marriage and the Family
- SOC 6650** To: Contemporary Social Issues
From: Topical Seminar in Sociology
- SOC 6660** To: Program Management and Evaluation
From: Program Evaluation
- SOC 6720** To: Applied Qualitative Research Design
From: Qualitative Research Design