GRADUATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – February 10, 2011

Present: Shirley Andrews (for Foster and Stonestreet), Melissa Benton, Dianne Dees, Michael Eaves for (Mike Savoie), Karla Hull (presiding), Lyle Indergaard, Wallace Koehler, George Langford, Reynaldo Martinez, Brian Ring (for Jim Loughry), Michael Sanger, Mel Schnake, Nancy Swanson, Kate Warner, David Wasieleski. Guests: Meg Moore, Wayne Plumly, Samantha Walls, Rebecca Waters, Maria Whyte, and Teresa Williams.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Hull at 2:05 PM.

Minutes from January's meeting were approved.

Response to Resolution to the Dean Regarding Summer Course Offerings: Dr. Hull was asked via resolution to investigate why departments obligated to offer graduate courses in the summers ran into problems, particularly funding. Dr. Hull mentioned that it differs at time, the equation for summer teaching. She would bring up the issue at the next Dean's council meeting, but the Graduate Executive Committee does not have authority or power to change. She may ask Provost Phil Gunter to visit at the next meeting and explain more. Dr. Hull asked if departments were unable to offer courses and fill them. Michael Sanger (MSW) said that his department doesn't even try – it's difficult to offer core courses. It was pointed out that it was more advantageous to offer more undergraduate than graduate courses for planning purposes.

Business Administration

Revised Catalog Copy-WebMBA; Curriculum Change-MBA: Motion was made to approve; seconded. Mel Schnake and Wayne Plumly discussed the proposals. The WebMBA program is dropping the managerial communications course (6020) and adding entrepreneur courses. The MBA changes will allow flexibility so that MBA majors can take elective courses more relevant to their occupation and interests. Additional seats would be allowed for MACC students, and students could graduate with an MBA in one year if desired.

New Courses – MBA 7401, 7402, 7403, 7610; Revised Courses – MBA 7050, 7500, 7630: Motion was made to approve; seconded. The first three are international courses; students can better prepare for careers in international business, finance, and economics. The business law course would be available for both MBA and MACC students (the latter have business law questions on the CPA exam). For the revised courses, prerequisites are being dropped/eliminated from course descriptions. MBA 7630 has a title change to reflect what is actually done in the course.   Wayne Plumly mentioned that the MBA and MACC programs are full beyond capacity. The proposed changes would help spread out available courses for both programs. All proposals were approved.

Graduate School

Catalog Changes (International Admissions; Academic Dismissals): Motion was made to approve; seconded. Rebecca Waters explained that to bring VSU up to date with other schools the graduate school will accept IELTS as a language test for international students because some countries are having difficulty offering the TOEFL. Also, for international students, we will eliminate the need for transcripts. Evaluations of transcripts are already being accepted; certified copies will work. If departments do require transcripts, we can make a program-by-program requirement.

Dr. Hull distributed a deficiency point system handout reporting that statics are showing that some students receiving multiple grades of "C" never graduate; a dismissal policy change would call for dismissal from a program if a student makes four or more "Cs." Discussion included adding the words "or lower" to the policy, and that KSPE has three 6-hour courses – would a student making a "C" in two of these courses be dismissed? It was suggested that "or 12 credit hours" be included in the policy. Can students take courses outside of a major to bring up their GPA? KSPE has a policy – no, a KSPE major cannot take courses outside their majors to bring up GPAs. The proposals were passed; the dismissal policy passed with a vote of 7 to 3; with one abstention.

The Arts

New Courses: COMM 7400 and MDIA 7400: Motion was made to approve; seconded. Michael Eaves reported that the proposals would add directed studies components to their program, allowing examination of special topics for students. The proposals were approved.

Catalog & Curriculum Changes – MMEd & MMP; New Courses – MUSC 7760, 7770, 5101, 5102, 5851: Motion was made to approve; seconded. Lyle Indergaard said that the catalog changes would make the language consistent, and they would like to change the MMEd to MME. (The Academic Committee later denied the request for name change due to BOR policy – it must remain MMEd.) The courses being added are companion courses: MUSC 5101 will fall under electives and 5851 adds a graduate level for wind ensemble. The proposals were approved.

Arts & Sciences

Course Reactivation – CRJU 7350: Motion was made to approve; seconded. Kate Warner noted that there are now two faculty members that can teach the course, and there is an increased demand for the topic which will enhance field skills. The proposal was approved.

Social Work

Curriculum Changes: Motion was made to approve; seconded. Mike Sanger explained that the changes would update the requirements for deficiency points and change the grade for field experience to a letter grade. The proposals were approved.

Nursing

Curriculum Changes – admissions requirements: Motion was made to approve; seconded. Melissa Benton reported that they were changing the CPR requirement based on the American Health Association's criteria, state licensure required even for out of state students, and applicants will be asked to take a graduate level statics course for regular status admittance. The proposals were approved.

Curriculum Changes (3 sets) with New and Revised Courses: Motion was made to approve; seconded. Melissa Benton explained that Nursing is creating a new series of tracks in addition to the Nurse Practitioner's track. They will have two semester core in common. They are revising and adding courses based on accreditation requirements. It was noted that NURS 7220 should be submitted on a "new course" form. The new track, Clinical Nurse Leader, is not a new program so SACS approval is not needed. The proposals were approved.

Library Science

Curriculum Changes (2); New Courses MLIS 7740 & 7222 – MLIS Program: Motion was made to approve; seconded. Wallace Koehler reported that a co-requisite was being deleted to improve performance in the course. MLIS 7740 continues archival focus and 7222 is converting from a 7999 number, a subject that is growing in the area of library services. Catalog changes: adding as a requirement for admission a goal statement and three letters of recommendation and changing application deadlines. The proposals were approved.

Other Business

1. GRE changes: Dr. Hull distributed a handout on myths and misuses of the GRE. She instructed the committee to ask their respective graduate faculty if they would agree to admit someone with an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or better and not use the GRE for admissions. This would save the student money, increase access to programs. Nursing is currently using this policy because the GRE is not an accurate predictor of students' performance. Programs that are content specific, such as Biology or the MBA requiring the GMAT, may see scores as more of a predictor for their students.   Reminder – the GRE is being restructured in the fall so scores will not be available in time for spring deadlines. The question was asked – what about other sources of data regarding the GPA issue? Dr. Hull responded that there are studies available via the internet; she would send more material to the committee so that more discussion can take place in the next meeting.

2. Third Annual Graduate Research & Scholarship Symposium: Teresa Williams said that a call for nominations was sent to program coordinators. The date of the symposium – April 29 (4:00 to 6:00 pm).

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Teresa Williams
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Recorder, Teresa Williams

Karla Hull
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Karla Hull