

MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING

April 17, 2009

The Graduate Council Meeting was called to order at 3:00 P.M. on Friday, April 17, 2009 in Library #212. Members present: David Johnson, Chairman, Her Yuan Chen, Navid Mojtabai, David Westpfahl, Thomas Kieft, Hamdy Soliman, Sayavur Bakhtiyarov, Judith Stuteville, Richard Aster

1). Call for Approval of Minutes:

The chairman called for approval of minutes of March 20, 2009 meeting. Westpfahl noticed an error in those minutes under New Business. There was an apostrophe that should not be there in the word “admissions”. Johnson stated that the error would be corrected. Aster made the motion to approve the amended minutes and Bakhtiyarov seconded the motion. All approved and the motion passed.

2). Announcements:

- a. Minority Fellowships (Johnson) – Johnson stated that at this time we have one Minority Fellowship that will move forward into the upcoming semester and that we have one other that has been promised for the Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 semesters. Johnson stated that he had already promised the second one to Minschwaner. Johnson encouraged all departments to continue to nominate students who are underrepresented minorities, Hispanic, Native American, African American and women who are permanent residents. We can use other names to be listed on a waiting list in case the promised students decide not to attend Tech.
- b. Other – Johnson made an announcement for the Humanities department who will be offering a Graduate Writing Seminar for the Fall semester of 2009. It will be called “ENGL 501”. Johnson encourages students to take this class. He stated that there are only 20 seats available. Graduate students are approved to take this course. This course is offered every fall semester. If we don't have enough students to take the course it will not be offered again.

3). Old Business:

- a. NMT Graduate Applications and Fees (Johnson) – Johnson stated that he had met with Lonny to negotiate the application fee. It was decided that the application fee would be changed from \$16.00 to \$45.00. This will go into effect sometime before the fall semester is to begin. Lonny stated that he would front the money for the new admissions program that will be set up through Hobson's. This will be uploaded directly into Banner according to Hobson's. Johnson stated that he would speak with Lonny at a later date concerning refunding the \$25.00 admission fee to students.
- b. Other – No other business.

4). New Business:

- a. Mechanical Engineering – Specialization in Aerospace Engineering (Bakhtiyarov) – see appendix – After tabling the last request for Mechanical engineering to add a new specialization in Aerospace Engineering Bakhtiyarov explained once again the courses that his program would like approved for this new specialization. There was a very lengthy conversation concerning the 400 level courses and the 500 level courses being the same courses and whether students should be allowed or would have to take the courses again if they had already taken the 400 level courses. The council could not come to an agreement on the coursework. Soliman made the motion to table this portion of Bakhtiyarov’s request for the addition of Specialization in Aerospace Engineering. The council did vote on the second portion of changes for the Mechanical Engineering Department which included changes from the existing catalog to the proposed new catalog on Thesis and Independent study credit hours. The new catalog will be more specific on what the requirements are to pursue either the thesis or the independent study option. Westpfahl made the motion to accept those changes and soliman seconded the motion. All approved and the motion passed.

- b. E&ES PhD Option in Geobiology (Aster) – see appendix - Aster explained the new program that he would like to add to the Earth and Environmental Science department. Doctor of Philosophy in Earth and Environmental Science with Dissertation in Geobiology. He went over the new courses that would be offered as well as the faculty who would guide the development and progress of the program. He explained the relevant courses that already existed to the program.

Aster made the motion to approve the PhD Option in Geobiology. Mojtabai seconded the motion. All approved and the motion passed.

5) Student Questions/Concerns (GSA Representative): No student representative attended.

6). Adjournment:

Johnson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Soliman seconded the motion, all agreed and the meeting adjourned at 4:00 P.M.