

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