MINUTES

Graduate Council

November 19, 2009 (REVISED)

Present: Ex officio: M. Sohn (Chairperson) R.L. Alford


Guests: M. Babich, R. Rusovici, B. Webster, C. Young

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 P.M.

Dr. Sohn welcomed everyone to the Council meeting, reminding all that there will not be a meeting in December, so the next Graduate Council meeting will be held on January 21, 2010. She also advised the Council members that Dr. Arrasmith will not be serving on the Graduate Council next term and his department will designate a replacement member for the Council.

1) MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 2009 GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the October 15, 2009 meeting were approved by a vote of 10 approvals and 1 abstention on a motion by Dr. Arrasmith and a second by Dr. Sharma.

2) REAPPOINTMENT OF ADJUNCT GRADUATE FACULTY MEMBER

Dr. Bala Subrahmanvam – MS level

Unanimous Approval

On a motion by Dr. Richardson and a second by Dr. Maul, the vote was unanimous to approve this re-appointment.

3) NEW MAJOR – MS in BIOCHEMISTRY

Unanimous approval

Dr. Babich was present to answer any questions the members had concerning this new major. Dr. Gallo observed that the proposed major was very strict, left little room for electives, and was thesis-only without a non-thesis option. Dr. Babich stated that was correct and indicated that Chemistry does not have any non-thesis graduate programs. Course CHM 5018 was reviewed to clarify the requirement for pre-reqs if a student had not taken undergraduate biochemistry and Dr. Maul’s inquiry about the absence of biology courses was satisfied by Dr. Babich’s response that most students have already taken them as undergraduates.

On a motion from Dr. Sharma and a second by Dr. Tomadakis, vote was unanimous to approve the requested new major.
4) **NEW COURSE – MAE 5790 SPECIAL TOPICS IN BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING**

Unanimous agreement to table this item until the January 2010 meeting

On a motion from Dr. Maul and a second from Dr. Arrasmith discussion was opened for this agenda item.

Dr. Weigel advised council members that there are many instances where one discipline needs to teach something from another discipline and there is no objection to that. The Biology department is concerned about the use of “Special Topics” in the course title because the subject matter can change from one semester to another. They suggest that the word “Cellular” should be in this title, not “Special Topics.”

Dr. Gallo pointed out that in Dr. Mitra’s written response (p. 23 of Package 1) he wrote “So to emphasize again – this course is not new – but just a new number to align it with the biomedical engineering option.” Dr. Gallo indicated that this really is not the case; MAE 5790 is indeed a new course and was not simply a replacement for MAE 5490. Dr. Weigel responded that there are many cellular biology courses in the Biology department now and renewed the request to call the course Cellular Biology, not Special Topics.

On an amended motion by Dr. Martinez-Diaz and a second by Dr. Maul, it was suggested that this agenda item be tabled until the January 2010 Graduate Council meeting – this will allow time for more dialog between the Biology and Mechanical & Aerospace departments before revisiting this item at the January Council meeting.

When the vote was called, it was unanimous to table this item until the January meeting.

5) **REMARKS FROM THE FLOOR**

Dr. Sohn noted that all members present have received a flow chart for Academic Standing determination at the close of each term.

Dr. Martinez-Diaz advised that he will be on sabbatical for the Spring 2010 semester and that a replacement will be designated by his department.

There were no other remarks from the floor.

The next meeting will be held on the 3rd Thursday, January 21, 2010.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:27 P.M.

Rosemary G. Layne, Ed.D.
Director of Graduate Programs