MINUTES

Graduate Council

February 17, 2011

Present: Ex officio: M. Sohn (Chairperson), G. L. Nelson


Guests: E. Kalajian, C. Young

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m.

1) ADDRESS COUNCIL MEMBERS – Dr. Gordon Nelson

Dr. Nelson informed council members that he will attend future council meetings and addressed changes in administrative positions and responsibilities in his area of Academic Affairs. He noted that there are no plans to replace the Dean of the Graduate School. Dr. Nelson stated that he values the work that this group does as graduate programs are integral to the success of this Tier I University.

2) MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 2011 GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING

Unanimously Approved

The minutes of the January 20, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Dr. Maul and a second by Dr. Sharma.

3) DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Dr. Rosemary Layne

Dr. Layne informed Graduate Council members that the new course ENM 5430 Strategic Situation Analysis Using Game Theory was approved by Graduate Council members by electronic vote with 14 approval votes, one no opinion, one no response, and one recuse.

4) NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT – Dr. Marius Silaghi

The Nominating Committee members (Drs. Cain, Maul, and Silaghi) presented a slate of three candidates for election of Chair of Graduate Council. The candidates are: Dr. J. Dshalalow (Mathematical Sciences), Dr. G. Maul (Marine and Environmental Systems), and Dr. M. Sohn (Chemistry). All nominees have accepted the nomination and no other nominations were added from the floor. Dr. Maul moved to close the nominations and
Dr. Cain seconded that motion. The Office of Graduate Programs will prepare ballots for election to be conducted at the March meeting.

5) **NEW PROGRAM – MS degree in Global Strategic Communication**

*Unanimously Approved*

Dr. Strother explained the changes in courses listed on an updated memo, which was handed out to all council members at the meeting. She also noted that the proposed MS degree program is very marketable and will have the same structure as the current MS program. She stated that all three options in the program (thesis, design project, and non-thesis) require a Final Program Examination.

There was discussion about program-level assessment (to include student learning outcomes). Dr. Strother elaborated that program assessment measures are being discussed now and the process should be completed by the end of this semester (Spring 2011). Dr. Layne provided background information on information to be included in course syllabi for proposed new courses. Drs. Richardson and Vamosi clarified that SACS requires documentation of program-level assessment but there is no policy that requires documented course-level student learning outcome statements for every course.

There was a question raised about the impact on faculty workload. Dr. Strother noted that the proposed program will have no impact on faculty workload because the same faculty members are being used. Current students in the previous degree program will transfer to the new degree program.

On a motion by Dr. Martinez-Diaz and a second by Dr. Maul, the vote resulted in unanimous approval.

There were no remarks from the floor.

The next meeting will be held on the 3rd Thursday, March 24, 2011.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:24 p.m.

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