MINUTES
Graduate Council
March 22, 2012

Present: M. Sohn (Chairperson), M. Baloga
Ex officio: M. Sohn (Chairperson), M. Baloga


Guests: R. Baggs, R. Ford, P. Hsu, E. Kalajian, L. Mayron, N. Nesnas, D. Platt, C. Young

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m.

1) MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 2012 GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING

Unanimously Approved

The minutes of the February 16, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Dr. Richardson and a second by Dr. Sharma.

2) DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Dr. Layne reported that four new proposed courses were circulated electronically in February and March for consideration by Council Members. The Department of Chemical Engineering course CHE 5250 Hydrogen Technology was approved with a vote of 14 in favor, one no opinion, and two no response. The College of Aeronautics course AVS 5208 Advanced Safety Research was approved with a vote of 11 in favor, one no opinion, and five no response. The Systems Engineering course SYS 5360 Electro-optics Infrared Systems Engineering was approved with a vote of 10 in favor, one no opinion, and six no response. The Human Centered Design course HCD 6997 Independent Study was withdrawn from consideration at the request of Dr. Boy.

3) CHANGING GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS IN A MAJOR – Behavior Analysis PhD Program

Unanimously Approved

Request is made by School of Psychology to increase the total credit requirements for the Behavior Analysis PhD Program from 83 to 89 credit hours.

On a motion by Dr. Harvey and a second by Dr. Richardson, the proposed degree changes were unanimously approved.
4) **CHANGING GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS – MS in Chemistry and Biochemistry**

*Unanimously Approved*

Request is made by the Chemistry Department to adjust graduation requirements in the MS in Chemistry program and in the MS in Biochemistry program to match other masters’ degree programs in the College of Science (30 credit hours). Request also made to add non-thesis option in Biochemistry.

On a motion by Dr. Sharma and a second by Dr. Jennings, the proposed degree changes and addition were unanimously approved.

5) **NEW SPECIALIZATIONS – Mechanical Engineering MS Program & Chemical Engineering MS Program**

*Unanimously Approved*

Request is made by the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering to add Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technology specialization to existing MS Mechanical Engineering Program.

Request is also made by the Department of Chemical Engineering to add Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technology specialization to the existing MS Chemical Engineering Program. Request includes one new course: CHE 5240 *Electrochemical Engineering*.

On a motion by Dr. Strother and a second by Dr. Jennings, the two programs were voted *en bloc* and unanimously approved.

6) **CHANGING GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS – MS in Computer Information Systems**

*Unanimously Approved*


A question was raised about the capstone course CIS 5898 *Projects in CIS* acting as a substitute for a final program examination, since graduate policy requires that all programs (with some named exceptions) have a final program examination. Dr. Baggs noted that the capstone course has been in place since 2004 and stated that the CIS program is looking to add two options: a final program examination and thesis. Another question was raised as to why this program currently did not have a final program examination in place.
Dr. Richardson clarified that the program was previously housed under the Extended Studies Division, which has a final program examination exemption under graduate policy. Now, however, the program has been re-located to the College of Engineering since August of 2011. There was also concern about the equality between the degree options. A capstone option may result in a different learning experience versus a thesis, thus creating two different degrees under the same name. Dr. Richardson reassured all that capstone projects have a set of rubrics that are thoroughly met. Students are required to write research style projects and defend them, similar to the thesis process. Dr. Baggs noted that the thesis option will serve students who may later desire a PhD degree as well as support the College of Engineering’s mission of research.

On a motion by Dr. Baksay and a second by Dr. Silaghi, the proposed degree changes and new courses vote resulted in 13 votes of approval and none opposed, and two abstentions.

On a side note, Dr. Harvey asked for guidance from the Graduate Council regarding syllabus requirements for proposed new courses. It was mentioned that maybe a template could be developed to aid Graduate Council members in their review to ensure that all requirements are being addressed and met. Dr. Sohn thought that maybe Committee on Standards may want to look into this.

7) **NEW PROGRAM – MS degree and Certificate in Information Assurance**

**Unanimously Approved**


On a motion by Dr. Silaghi and a second by Dr. Maul, the proposed programs and new courses were unanimously approved.

8) **REVISION TO GRADUATE POLICY – Graduate Policy 1.5.1 Committee Chair**

**Approved**

Request submitted by the Department of Chemical Engineering to propose change to Graduate Policy 1.5.1 Committee Chair.

**Current policy:** “Committee Chair- ‘For thesis students: the student’s thesis adviser, selected by the student, with the concurrence of the individual selected and the student’s academic unit head.’”

**Proposed change:** “Committee Chair- ‘For thesis students: the student’s thesis adviser or a full-time member of the faculty in the student’s academic department, selected by
the student, with the concurrence of the individual selected and the student’s academic unit head.”

Dr. Carroll reported the recommendation of the Committee on Standards (minutes provided) was that the current wording of Graduate Policy 1.5.1 allows departmental flexibility and that any change to policy would restrict departments. After discussion, Council Members agreed with the Committee on Standards on the importance of maintaining departmental flexibility in appointing committee members. However, Council Members concluded that the proposed revision in policy would be helpful in clarifying roles of committee members while still maintaining departmental flexibility.

A question was raised about PhD committees and Dr. Layne answered that doctoral committee members’ roles are more clearly defined in graduate policy.

On a motion by Dr. Jennings and a second by Dr. Maul, the proposed revision of Graduate Policy 1.5.1. resulted in eight votes of approval and three opposed, and two abstentions.

9) **CHANGING CREDITS IN A COURSE – CHE 5998 Graduate Project in Chemical Engineering**

   **Unanimously Approved**

   Request submitted by the Department of Chemical Engineering to change credits in CHE 5998 Graduate Project in Chemical Engineering from 3 credits to 1-3 credits.

   On a motion by Dr. Harvey and a second by Dr. Jennings, the proposed change in credits was unanimously approved.

10) **NEW PROGRAM – MS in Commercial Enterprise in Space**

   **Unanimously Approved**

   Request is submitted by the Extended Studies Division to add new MS degree in Commercial Enterprise. Includes three new courses: MGT 5009 International Law and Treaties in Space, MGT 5005 National Security Issues in Space, and MGT 5004 Commercial Enterprise in Space Capstone.

   On a motion by Dr. Maul and a second by Dr. Strother, the proposed program and new courses were unanimously approved.

11) **REMARKS FROM THE FLOOR**

   Dr. Maul suggested that we move to paperless graduate council packets. Dr. Baloga stated that other committees post their agenda items and materials and that committee members can print out the material as needed. It was also recommended to project the agenda material on a screen during the meeting.

   Dr. Baloga introduced the topic of MS degree programs moving to non-thesis options. She is grappling with how to prove to accreditation agencies that the non-thesis option and the
thesis option are equivalent degrees. After discussion, Dr. Baloga indicated that we may need to revisit learning objectives for degree programs.

The Final meeting for academic year 2011-2012 will be held on Thursday, April 19. Dr. Sohn requested that academic units submit materials well in advance of the April 5 deadline to provide sufficient time for the Office of Graduate Programs to review materials.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

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