MINUTES
Graduate Council
February 21, 2013

Present: Ex officio: M. Sohn (Chairperson)

Voting Members: L. Baksay, E. Dshalalow, M. Gallo (proxy for S. Cusick),
B. Grossman, M. Harvey, P. Jennings, G. Maul, J.P. Pinelli,
T. Richardson (also proxy for A. Vamosi), V. Sharma, M. Silaghi,
J. Strother, B. Webster

Guests: J. Cain, E. Kalajian, N. Nesnas, C. Young

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

1) ADDRESS COUNCIL MEMBERS – Dr. Rosemary Layne

Dr. Baloga requested that Dr. Layne address council members on her behalf while she is away at the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools. Her report consisted of three recent graduate policy editorial updates.

Graduae Policy 4.12 Dismissal for Misconduct, Graduate Programs – Dr. Layne stated that dismissals for misconduct are extremely rare; however, in December 2012 the College of Business had a dismissal for academic misconduct and the student chose to appeal the dismissal. Because the last appeal for academic misconduct was in 2004, it was felt that the policy needed a few editorial updates primarily to reflect a shift in role responsibilities from the director of graduate programs to the dean of graduate programs with respect to convening the dismissal appeal committee, communicating with the appellate and recordkeeping. Dr. Layne distributed the updated policy and extended thanks to members of the Dismissal Appeals Committee (Chair Dr. Cusick and members Dr. Baarmand, Dr. Harvey, Dr. Pinelli and Dr. Richardson. Dr. Vamosi has recused himself) who have met twice and will hold additional meetings until a determination has been reached on the aforementioned appeal.

Policy 2.1 Admission to Doctoral Study (PhD) and Graduate Policy 3.1 Admission to Doctoral Study, PsyD Students – Dr. Layne distributed the policies and advised that the updates were requested by the academic deans to bring policy in line with current practice. At the February 13, 2013 Dean’s Council Meeting the deans chose to remove the statement “This recommendation is submitted to the dean of the [appropriate college or school (in GP 2.1); College of Psychology and Liberal Arts (in GP 3.1)] for review and approval.” None of the deans were following this practice as they felt it was too restrictive.
2) **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT – Dr. George Maul**

The Nominating Committee (Dr. Maul, Dr. Jennings, and Dr. Baarmand) presented a slate of three candidates for election of Chair of Graduate Council. The candidates are Dr. B. Webster, Dr. P. Jennings, and Dr. M. Gallo. All nominees have accepted the nomination and no other nominations were added from the floor.

The Office of Graduate Programs will prepare ballots for the election to be conducted at the March meeting of Graduate Council.

3) **MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 2013 GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING**

*Unanimously Approved*

The minutes of the January 17, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved, including one abstention on a motion by Dr. Sharma and a second by Dr. Strother.

4) **CHANGING GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS IN A MAJOR – MS Degree in Biochemistry**

*Unanimously Approved*

The request is made by the Department of Chemistry to modify existing core course requirements for the MS degree in Biochemistry to seek more equal distribution of chemistry and biology courses.

Dr. Nesnas stressed the need for changes in the Biochemistry major by offering a non-thesis option (which will be the default choice if a student does not select an option). This will allow students to do academic research (reading literature reviews), without the need for limited lab space.

It was noted by a fellow council member that the current university catalog language is geared towards the existing thesis option. Dr. Nesnas will work with Ms. Liz Fox, Catalog Director, to make those editorial changes to reflect a non-thesis option.

On a motion by Dr. Sharma and a second by Dr. Gallo, the request to modify existing core course requirements for the MS degree in Biochemistry was unanimously approved.

5) **ADDING A NEW MAJOR – PhD Degree Program in Aviation Science**

*Unanimously Approved*

The request is made by College of Aeronautics to add a new PhD degree program in Aviation Sciences. The proposed degree program includes 10 new courses which were approved at the October 2012 Graduate Council Meeting.
Dr. Gaio stated that the degree program cannot be officially offered until SACS has approved it as a substantive change (i.e. first PhD program in the College of Aeronautics); however, the new courses will be available and can be taken. He also stated that in year four the degree program will include an online component. Applicants are required to hold an Aviation degree at the Master’s level for admission into this program.

On a motion by Dr. Dshalalow and a second by Dr. Richardson, the request made by College of Aeronautics to add a new PhD degree program in Aviation Sciences was unanimously approved.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 28, 2013.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:28 p.m.

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