

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

January 31, 2007

3:00 p.m. – LHH 303

1. The meeting was called to order by Harry Tiemann, chair, at 3:05 p.m.

Committee members present: Morgan Bridge (Business), Tim Novotny (Computer Science, Mathematics, and Statistics), Lory Maddox (Health Sciences), Steve Murray (Kinesiology), Andrew Gordon (Languages, Literature, and Mass Communication), Monte Atkinson (Music), Chad Middleton (Physical and Environmental Sciences), Harry Tiemann (Social and Behavioral Sciences)

Ex officio members present: Tom Harris (Tomlinson Library), Cathy Barkley (Asst VP for Academic Affairs) and Erin Rooks (Academic Affairs)

Guests present: Heather Exby (Extended Studies), Ben Keefer (Extended Studies, Jessica Miller (Social and Behavioral Sciences), Susan Becker (Social and Behavioral Sciences), Jerry Moorman (Business)

2. Discussion on approval/disapproval of the PSYC 596 and SOCI 596 proposals sent to the Council members by Heather Exby.
 - a. Heather Exby and Professor Becker explained to the committee that District 51 has asked Mesa State College to offer PSYC 596 and SOCI 596 courses as continuing education for teachers.
 - b. Dr. Ben Keefer explained the process:
 - i. These classes are very focused and offer re-certification and professional development for District 51 teachers. All teachers must take graduate courses.
 - ii. Before the course is offered, it must be approved as well as the faculty teaching the course. Mesa does not provide the professor but does offer the credit to the District 51 faculty as well as the teachers in the class.
 - iii. These classes are only for graduate credit. They are not meant to be transferable to a Master's Degree Program.
 - c. Concerns were raised by committee members:
 - i. Professor Atkinson brought up a concern about giving credit for the classes but not having a MSC faculty member teaching the class. He feels the council needs to uphold the integrity of the institution for graduate programs and that our faculty needs to teach the classes.
 - ii. Associate Professor Murray asked who determines the faculty teaching graduate courses. He feels a process should be put in place. Professor Novotny also brought up concern about who will be teaching the courses. He thinks the faculty needs to be determined ahead of time and not changed at the last minute.

- iii. The committee agreed that the Department Heads need to be involved in the approval of courses and faculty in their area. All policies should be included in the catalog. An idea was brought up to have someone in the department be a liaison to the faculty teaching the course. Dr. Cathy Barkley added that once the department reviews the faculty and course work, feedback should be given to the District and changes can be made. She feels we should work things out so they won't go to another institution.
 - iv. Does Mesa State receive money for offering the course? Committee members think Mesa should get some money for the paperwork or the department should receive the money.
3. Discussion of transcript identification of graduate courses intended not for use in graduate degrees, but for certification or other self-improvement.
- a. Since these classes are for continuing education and not meant to be transferred, they can be Pass/Fail grades.
 - b. Dr. Cathy Barkley brought up an idea to code the classes as workshops. PSYC 501: Workshop in ____ * might be useful. The asterisk would alert transcript readers to the college's qualification at the bottom of the transcripts that these "workshops" were not standard M.A. courses. The PSYC, SOCI, or any prefix would identify the discipline through which the course was being offered. Assistant Professor Maddox brought up a concern if a "workshop" has the same value as a graduate course?
 - c. Chairman Tiemann will talk with Pat Hampton (MSC Registrar) to see how this method will affect his office. He will report back to the committee at the next meeting.

Professor Miller added that an assessment will be done for all classes.

Professor Becker and Heather Exby will re-number the courses and write up workshop descriptions to present at the next meeting.

Cathy Barkley will report to the Department Heads and get their input on the subject.

Murray moved to table the topic till next meeting. All agreed.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm.

Submitted by Erin Rooks
Graduate Council Secretary