Minutes Approved at 570th Meeting - October 1, 2007

GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES
569th Meeting
September 10, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT: Barbe, Bauer, Behzad, Bond, Carrier, Changnon, Factor, Gowen, Gupta, Hartnett, Hoffman, Karonis, Lash, Lockard, Macdonald, Osorio, Riley, Shaw, Sunderlin, Townsend

MEMBERS ABSENT: Arado, Johnson, Lim, Sims, Waas

OTHERS PRESENT: Seaver (Vice Provost), Smith (Catalog Editor/Curriculum Coordinator), Wright (Secretary)

Rathindra N. Bose, Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School, called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. Bose welcomed the new Graduate Council Members and returning members. Bose asked each member of the Graduate Council to introduce themselves.

Old Business

MAT Proposal Update: Bose asked Vice Provost Seaver to attend the Graduate Council meeting in order to update the Graduate Council on the progress of the proposal for the M.A.T in Elementary Education. Bose gave the Council a brief overview of what happened last year regarding the Masters of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.). He explained that the College of Education forwarded the curriculum for the M.A.T. in Elementary Education to the Graduate Council Curriculum Committee (GCCC). The GCCC then approved and forwarded the M.A.T. in Elementary Education curriculum to the Graduate Council. The Graduate Council then discussed the curriculum, but had some concerns about possible overlap with other departments due to the fact that the program offered K-9 certification. The item was tabled at that time and representatives from both the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the College of Education were invited to the Graduate Council for discussion. The College of Education assured the Council that the K-9 certification is based on state standards and that the M.A.T. in Elementary Education is only for those teaching in elementary schools. They further explained that individuals seeking to teach at the middle school level would need additional coursework. The Graduate Council kept the item tabled for further clarification. Following the Graduate Council discussion, Bose met with representatives from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the College of Education, and the Provost’s Office. Bose asked Seaver to give the Council an update regarding what has happened with the proposal since last year.

Seaver explained that during the program review for Elementary Education a couple of years ago there was discussion about the difficulty of having a two-track master’s program because one of the tracks was for initial certification in elementary education
and the other a professional development masters, for those already involved in teaching. At the time of program review there was discussion in the College of Education that they would like to separate the tracks into two different degree programs. The curriculum for the M.A.T. is what initially moved through the system, but Elementary Education is also proposing a new degree. A new degree is a different process. The curriculum has already moved through most of the steps, but the new degree has not. The degree and curriculum approval is a two step process. The degree has to go through the university process and to the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). The reason that the process came to a halt was because there had not been a proposal for a new degree. This led to a discussion in the Provost’s Office regarding the creation of a M.A.T. at NIU. This discussion led to more interest in the M.A.T., not just from the College of Education, but also from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The Provost’s Office did not think it made sense to go to the IBHE with a various number of M.A.T. degrees, especially degrees that may have very small numbers. At the same time the University is very committed to having a M.A.T. degree. This is a potential growth area for the institution. The Provost’s Office wanted to clarify that the M.A.T degree would only be for those seeking initial certification. They also decided that this is not the time to approach the IBHE with multiple degrees, so the University would propose one M.A.T. program with varying emphases. This would allow adding additional MAT degrees in the future and would only require going to Springfield before the IBHE once. Seaver stated that he has a meeting next week in the College of Education to discuss the M.A.T. degree proposal. He is encouraging the College of Education to bring forward the first emphasis for the M.A.T. degree. He explained that because this would be one degree with different emphases, all the emphases would have to have a common core. That common core would be decided by the faculty. It could be a practicum or a pedagogy course. What the Graduate Council has is the curriculum, but they will have to review and vote on the degree.

Bose thought that a degree proposal was previously forwarded to the Graduate Council. He stated that originally the Council only received the curriculum approval, but after he requested a copy the proposal was sent forward. Bose thought that the degree proposal was submitted to the Graduate Council. Factor responded that the Graduate Council did review documents, but he is not sure if they saw the degree proposal in its final or complete form. Seaver said that he would check with Vice Provost Cassidy because that is where the request would go. Council discussion followed.

Seaver informed the council that there is no opposition to approving a M.A.T degree and that the only reason for the delay is to make sure the correct procedures are followed. The Council has kept the item tabled and will vote when the full degree proposal is received.

Priority Business

Establishment of 2007-2008 Standing Committees of the Graduate Council: Over the summer, Graduate Council faculty members were asked to choose which committees they would be interested in serving on. Faculty members were placed on at least one of
their choices. Additional vacancies will be filled with non-Council members to assure appropriate representation by college. Approval for the standing committees list as distributed was moved by Macdonald, seconded by Lockard; motion passed unanimously.

_Selection of an Assistant Chair of the Graduate Council:_ This person will serve as chair when the chair is gone and assist with creating the agenda when called upon. The assistant chair also serves as an ex officio member on the University Council. A motion was made by Gupta, seconded by Macdonald, to nominate Changnon. Changnon accepted the nomination, which was unanimously approved.

_Selection of a 2007-2008 faculty member and graduate student representative to the University’s Libraries Advisory Committee:_ The Graduate Council nominated Sunderlin for the faculty member position and Riley for the student position.

_Selection of a 2007-2008 graduate student representative to the Campus Security and Environmental Quality Committee:_ The Graduate Council nominated Hartnett for this position.

_Selection of a 2007-2008 graduate student representative and a faculty member to the University Assessment Panel:_ The Graduate Council nominated Bauer for the faculty member position and Behzad for the student position.

**Announcements/Information Items**

*Research and Artistry:* The request for Research and Artistry proposals for Summer 2008 was sent to all departments. Bose noted that the Research and Artistry Committee voted on a few changes to the Research and Artistry request for proposals that were included this year. He reported that the Division was unable to complete the electronic submission process because the IT staff in the Division has been overwhelmed with the transition to PeopleSoft that is taking place across campus. This year Bose’s office will scan all the Research and Artistry proposals received in order to provide the Committee with electronic copies. Bose also expressed interest in increasing the summer salary stipend from $4,500 to $5,000, but at this time is not able to do so due to other priority items. Those items include seed funding for two new Ph.D. programs. This year the summer salary will stay at $4,500 with up to $2,000 for additional expenses.

Bauer commented that it would be helpful if the Research and Artistry Committee would provide information on any changes for the Summer 2009 proposals by the end of Spring 2008. This would give faculty members ample time to prepare for their submissions in Fall 2008. Bose agreed to do that and mentioned offering online submission training for those that need it.

*Presidential Research Professorship:* The call for nominations went out for this year’s Presidential Research Professor awards. Bose urged faculty to nominate worthy individuals from all departments and colleges. He stated that the Presidential Professor
award is not just for faculty from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, but any faculty who are making significant contributions to their fields.

*Nanoscience Catalog Change:* At the March 5, 2007 Graduate Council meeting, the Council approved a catalog description for a new track offered through the Ph.D. in Physics program. On May 22, 2007 Bose forwarded the Council changes to that catalog description, which included changing the term “concentration” to “specialization.” On Friday, May 25, 2007 hearing no objections the changes were approved and the Nanoscience Specialization through the Ph.D. in Physics was sent to the Board of Trustees for approval. The Board of Trustees approved the specialization with minor revisions at the June 21, 2007 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.