

**UNIVERSITY COUNCIL FOR GRADUATE STUDIES  
AND RESEARCH**

**MINUTES**

**1 February 2002**

**Meeting Number 329**

**Present:** S. Agrawal (FCBE), G. Baxter (Theatre), L. Bennett (CAS), J. Clay (Pub Admin), P. Davis (FCBE, proxy C. Jones), J. Hurley (Hist, proxy L. Bennett), W. Janna (Herff), C. Jones (FCBE), John Johnston (ICL), K. Kreitner (Music), M. Logan (CCFA, proxy K. Kreitner), E. Rakow (CEPR), S. Slack (BIOM), D. Smith (EngTech), R. VanArsdale (Geol, proxy L. Bennett), D. Wark (AUSP), K. Weddle-West (COE); D. Horgan (Interim Dean)

**Absent:** P. Bridson (Interim VPR)

**Guests:** J. Brownlee

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m.

329.1 D. Smith moved (2/E. Rakow) that the minutes of Meeting No. 328, 6 December 2001 be approved. The motion was carried by voice vote.

329.2 Announcements

329.2.1. D. Horgan announced that conditional admission will no longer be used except for international students enrolled in IEI courses. She drew council members' attention to the new Departmental Recommendation Form.

329.2.2. D. Horgan also announced that M. Stout is back from surgery but only working part time; H. Eubanks and T. Covington in Graduate Admissions are also working part time, so delays should be expected.

329.2.3. Graduate School changes to Section 2 of the catalog will be proposed at the March meeting. At that time Comps, PhD residency requirements, and +/- grading will be addressed.

329.2.3.1 Plus/minus grading is still a problem; deans want to accept B- (2.67) toward graduation; will this weaken the degree? This needs to be addressed at departmental level.

329.2.3.2 The main problem with comps is a lack of consistency between policy and practice. Partly this is definitional: a comprehensive exam ought to be toward the end of the program; however some departments substitute the defense for the comp or substitute the thesis for the comp and do not always

submit a comp results form. It is best to have a unified requirement, but at the very least units have to clearly define their use of comps.

- 329.2.4. Graduate School Concerns document outlines management problems and includes what departments can do to rectify them. These problems are continuous enrollment (we need to be able to define which courses are subject to continuous enrollment requirement), difficulty of certifying for graduation when requirements are not clear or are not stated in the catalog, lack of consistency between policy and practice, and late paperwork.
- 329.2.5. D. Horgan drew attention to the sample statistical report generated by the Office of Institutional Research from 14<sup>th</sup> day statistics (the official numbers reported to TBR) and said that the data warehouse (which uses BRIO as its inquiry system) is refreshed every day. Both sources will be useful for self-study reports required by SACS. Training will be offered on BRIO.
- 329.2.6. The sample graduate committee assessment form could also be useful for self-study reports and will be provided to anyone who requests it.
- 329.2.7. GRE Writing Assessment will replace the analytical exam in October 2002; a brochure from ETS and Score Level Descriptions for the GRE Writing Assessment were distributed.
- 329.2.8 National and U of M enrollment data were discussed; note only one conditional admit.
- 329.2.9 State appropriations data; note Tennessee up 2.6%.
- 329.2.10 Monitoring foreign students: A bill before the state legislature calls for universities to require such students to check in monthly with some (unspecified) governmental office. This will be problematic and expensive. However, we have had several fraudulent I-20s this year; some departments should be exploring ways to increase domestic enrollment and decrease dependence on international students.
- 329.2.11 We will not require Canadian applicants to submit a WES evaluation; not just because of the language but because their educational system is virtually identical to the US. The WES evaluation is necessary because educational systems across the globe are not consistent.
- 329.3 Program Changes
- 329.3.1 Fogelman College of Business and Economics: W. Janna moved (2/L. Bennett) that all proposed changes be approved. The motion was carried by voice vote.
- 329.3.2 College of Communication and Fine Arts: E. Rakow questioned the legitimacy of requiring a pass on one part of an exam in order to take the

other part. It was decided to table the Communication department's change in comprehensive exam requirements. W. Janna moved (2/K. Weddle-West) that all other proposed changes be approved. The motion was carried by voice vote. Additional changes from this college, distributed at the meeting, will be considered by e-mail later this month.

- 329.3.3 College of Arts and Sciences: D. Horgan announced that Physics had agreed to suggested corrections in GRE terminology and that some of MMCS' proposed changes were problematic and will be tabled. Discussion determined that Sociology's changes should also be tabled. W. Janna moved (2/K. Weddle-West) that all other proposed changes be approved. The motion was carried by voice vote.
- 329.3.4 College of Education: Most changes related to the new PETE concentration in ICL. W. Janna moved (2/E. Rakow) that all proposed changes be approved. The motion was carried by voice vote.
- 329.3.5 Herff College of Engineering: W. Janna moved (2/S. Slack) that the proposed change in Engineering Technology admission requirements be approved. The motion was carried by voice vote.
- 329.3.6 School of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology: D. Wark presented the program description of the new AuD degree and moved (2/W. Janna) that all proposed changes be approved. The motion was carried by voice vote.

There being no further business, W. Janna moved (2/? ) that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was carried by voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nancy Hurley