

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL FOR GRADUATE STUDIES
AND RESEARCH

MINUTES
27 February 1997

Present: Emin Babakus, Carole Bond, Peter Bridson, Bill Crump, Steven Griffin, John Haddock, David Kemme, Kenneth Kreitner, Ronnie Priest, K. Terry (for Bill Marty)

Ann Wilkes-Penrod presided in place of Linda Brinkley (who is out of town)

I. Opened with discussion of Michelle's workload and ways to reduce it – discussion about her proper sphere. Eventually decided to put more responsibility for grammar, style, etc. on dissertation committee; Michelle should concentrate more on mechanics and format. If dissertations are returned, should be over Dianne's or Linda's signature. Linda will be sending out a memo about these new rules, including a "cheat sheet" of most common errors for committee to check for. Several raised point that other universities do not perform this kind of checking of dissertations; they agreed that the burden of correctness should be on the student. The problem of different formats for different disciplines was raised, but not really dealt with, though it was suggested that all students should be required to follow the dissertation rule-book available in the bookstore for \$5.00. There was some resistance to the suggestion of moving the deadlines back and a suggestion that more members of the Graduate School staff read the dissertations when there is a backlog.

II. AWP briefly described the new FRG and Research Initiation Award programs. Next year, applicants will choose which category to compete in and announcements will go out earlier. The RIA program (supplanting SPUR) may have some money before end of fiscal year; if so, will make it available to deans. Suggestion was made to make it clear that recipients cannot teach summer school if they have an RIA. There was also some disappointment that it is reserved for new researchers; there is still a need to reward more experienced researchers.

III. Provost's Predoctoral Diversity Fellowship elicited much discussion, particularly about its cost-sharing aspect. Departmental reps felt there was little incentive for them, but deans suggested that it should be supported on the college level. It was pointed out that there will be only three for the whole university, but that seemed to discourage departments even more. A major stumbling block seemed to be loss of teaching assistants to support this fellowship, though deans suggested that other areas of the university should address problems of instruction. The question of whether fellows can teach was raised, as was the question of what constitutes a minority.

IV. Several people urged that the Van Vleet fellowship remain a research fellowship to assist students working on their dissertations. It has been very helpful in getting students out.

V. Bill Crump announced several changes to the admissions procedure:

- a) As of 3 March, will be separate from undergrad admissions and will have temporary help in data entry.
- b) GPAs will not be calculated if test scores are high (or low) enough to make it a fruitless exercise.
- c) Reject letters will no longer state reasons – that will be left to the departments.
- d) Will not send departments copies of material that is available on-line (UofM transcripts, etc.)
- e) Have permission from TBR to raise application fee to \$35.00 (\$60.00 for international applicants) – much discussion whether to leave non-degree application fee at \$5.00 – majority felt that it was so low that it was working against us and that the non-degree application fee should be the same--an informal vote was for \$35.00 across the board except for international applicants.
- f) The question of accessing departmental application statistics was raised and it was suggested that Ronnie Sutton could assist in running focus reports; it was also suggested that Michelle, once her workload is lightened, could do these reports, but the departments would prefer to be able to do it themselves.
- g) Applicant activity is about the same as last year, though it has grown in the Business School.

Notes respectfully submitted by Nancy Hurley