MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

September 10, 2009


OTHERS PRESENT: Karen Alarie, Michael Bustle, Director, Office of International Services, Adrianna Kirkman (substituting for Richard Venditti)

ABSENT: Ken Esbenshade, Tim Hatcher, Richard Venditti

1. Approval of the minutes of the September 10, 2009 meeting of the Administrative Board of the Graduate School.

   The minutes of the September 10, 2009 meeting of the Administrative Board of the Graduate School were approved with revision.

2. Announcements

   Dr. Hodge announced that the following new programs were sent to UNC-GA on September 9:

   New Programs (Authorization to Establish Appendix B & C)
   Master of Environmental Assessment
   Master of and Master of Science in Family Life & Youth Development
   Master of and Master of Science in Environmental Engineering
   Master of Geospatial Information Science & Technology
   Ph.D. in Adult, Higher, and Human Resource Education

   New Distance Programs (Authorization to Establish Appendix G)
   Master of Environmental Assessment
   Master of and Master of Science in Family Life & Youth Development
   Master of Environmental Engineering (No Master of Science via Distance Education was requested)
   Master of Geospatial Information Science & Technology
Master of Computer Networking (Existing on-campus degree program)
Master of Education and Master of Science in Instructional Technology (Existing on-campus degree program)
Master of Education and Master of Science in Science Education (Existing on-campus degree program)
Master of Industrial Engineering (Existing on-campus degree program)

Dr. Hodge reported that we participated in a request from the NC General Assembly for Distance Education data to assess the cost of Distance Education compared with traditional means of delivering courses.

Dr. Hodge indicated that he is attending meetings focusing on a Korea campus.

Dr. Larick announced that he met with Chancellor Woodward and Provost Arden regarding dual degrees. As a result, the Chancellor has asked Dr. Larick to chair a committee that consists of Bailian Li, Karen Helm, Betsy Brown, George Hodge, and David Dixon. The committee would be charged with the mission of ensuring that there was a clear benefit to NC State.

3. Enrollment Update

Dr. Hodge reported that our enrollment is up and we’ve exceeded our target.

4. Update on recent University Graduate Student Association (UGSA) Activities

Ms. Feese reported that, at the first UGSA meeting, they had a lot of new representatives. They are working on explaining how UGSA works and forming their internal committees. She indicated that Dr. Larick attended the recent UGSA meeting and gave a presentation on the role of the Graduate School.

5. Operational Items:

Request from the College of Education for a change in course numbers – ECI/ELM 530 to ECI/ELM 534
Approved

6. Curriculum Action:

Request for Change in Degree Program Title – Ph.D. Forestry to Ph.D. Forestry and Environmental Resources
Approved

7. New Courses:

FLS 526 – Cultures, Discourses and Practices of Early Modern Spanish
Approved with revisions

PSY 705 – Affect and Cognition
Approved
8. Discussion Items:

a. Masters degree nomenclature (Masters of Science - thesis and non-thesis; Masters of a Discipline; Masters of a Discipline or non-thesis program Option B). Do we need them all? Could the nomenclature be changed? The current nomenclature can be found at: http://www.ncsu.edu/grad/handbook/section3_8.php

The discussion centered on minors and co-majors. Previous material will be reposted for future discussion.

d. Patent Waivers and Ph.D. Research—student or full-time employee?

The Graduate School has been charged with monitoring compliance. The following are examples of exceptions to the current patent waiver process:

1. Adjunct faculty who are full time employees
2. Full-time student working full-time at a company using partial NCSU resources
3. Full-time student working full-time at a company using no NCSU resources

The board discussed the forms that were presented and had some concerns. It was indicated that the forms would not be published on the web, but will be a starting point for negotiations. The subject lines should be changed to better reflect the content of each form and a sentence or two should be inserted regarding the research that is to be performed.

e. Course Syllabus Regulations and Syllabus Tool
http://delta.ncsu.edu/test/apps/syllabus_tool/

The draft of the Syllabus Regulations that was approved by the academic associate deans is now being reviewed by the UCCC. The regulations that are under consideration will be added to the next ABGS agenda. A board member noted that the unofficial version of the regulations is on the web along with the requirement to use the syllabus tool.

f. Time Limit for Thesis Submission OIS has asked us to consider establishing time limits for turning in the final thesis/dissertation after the defense. Some international students (and perhaps PI's as well) are gaming the system by postponing final thesis submission by as much as a whole semester. Any rules we invoke would have to apply equally to both international and US citizens alike. We currently have no rules.

In addition to the census day deadline that was suggested at the previous meeting as a reasonable time to turn in the final version of the thesis/dissertation, the following were proposed: X days from the last
day of the semester the student defends, X days after meeting with
thesis editor, and X days after unconditionally passing the proposal
defense were also suggested and discussed. The concern is what
penalty will be levied against the student if they don’t meet this
deadline and how will that be enforced?

h. Transfer Credits from Foreign Institutions We currently require a "B" grade to transfer any course from another institution, regardless of the grading culture in place at that institution. While most foreign institutions furnish conversions from their grades to "US grades", that does not take into account differences in grading culture. While we (and most US institutions) require a minimum 3.0 average to graduate from a graduate program, most European institutions require a lower average for graduation. Emily Burnett of the Study Abroad office has obtained the minimum graduation average required by two institutions that our graduate students normally attend. Copenhagen Business School requires a minimum average of 2. The conversion to US grades is 12= A; 10= A-/B+; 7= B; 4= C+; 2= C; 0= F; -3= F. The Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration requires a minimum average of 4. Their scale converts as 1=A; 2=B+/B; 3=B-/C+; 4=C; 5=F.

The current option being discussed requires developing a “passing” level for international exchanges that require an interpretation for each school, as opposed to a country or system, for example. The proposed statement is also somewhat vague and open to interpretation. For example, at IAE the French MGIM partner there has no GPA requirement for students – they simply need to complete the ECTS requirements regardless of grade points.

9. Next scheduled meeting:
   September 24, 2009
   10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
   Scott Hall, Room 216