

GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
February 7, 2006

Present: Peter Hogan, Ryan May, Mark Sibicky, Jim O'Donnell, David Mead, Laura Little, Peter Thayer, Amy Gingrich, Cheslee Bloyd, Nick Stanwick, Gloria Stewart, Stephanie Carman, Liane Gray-Starner, Cathy Brown (recorder).

Provost DeWine attended the meeting to "brief" the committee on the report pertaining to graduate programs from the accreditation team's visit in November. Since the college now offers five graduate programs, the accreditation team recommends a more centralized program administration with standardization of data collection and a review of admissions standards. The team noted that there are no clear criteria for faculty teaching graduate courses and it is expected that they will have a terminal degree in their field. It is also expected that graduate faculty be involved in scholarship and research activity that may require external funding. Particular concern was expressed for the MALL Program's lack of a research component and heavy reliance on enhanced undergraduate courses.

Provost DeWine concluded that MC has the appropriate administration and faculty in place with each department's oversight along with the Director of Graduate and Continuing Studies and the Graduate Council. As the graduate programs continue to evolve, the team's recommendations will be taken into consideration.

The Physician Assistant Program Director submitted changes to several course titles to better reflect a continuation of a course from one semester to the next while not affecting the course hours or content requirements of the Didactic Phase of the program. A change to the Clinical Phase was also submitted to reduce the number of credit hours by two to accommodate a need for the students to have a two week vacation during the holiday season. A motion was made and seconded that we accept the changes and the motion passed unanimously.

The next agenda item was a request from the registrar recommending that a minimum number of credit hours be set that a student who has completed one graduate degree at MC could use toward a second graduate degree. After some discussion, a motion was made and seconded that a student be allowed to transfer in six credit hours from another institution or use six credit hours earned at MC but not used toward completion of an MC graduate degree. The motion was tabled until the next meeting so that a representative of the MA in Education could be present.

The Records Office asked for clarification as to whether or not grades of "PR" (for Satisfactory Progress) be left on graduate students' transcripts who never completed their degrees and not changed to Fs. A motion was made and seconded that the grade of "PR" remains on the transcript even if the student drops out, withdraws, or is dismissed from a graduate program.

It was asked of the committee whether or not a graduate student should fill out a withdrawal form if they decide to drop out of a graduate program. It was decided that the Director of Graduate & Continuing Studies could develop a form and that it would be recommended that students fill it out but it is not mandatory.

Council chair, Dr. Hogan, asked members to send him suggestions on wording of a function of Graduate Council regarding the academic grievance procedure to be included in the Faculty Constitution.

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m. Next meeting will be Tuesday, February 14, at 1:30 in Bartlett 285.