

Meeting of March 24, 2010, 2:00 p.m.  
Adamany Undergraduate Library, Community Room

**Agenda**

**I. Approval of Minutes:** February 17, 2010\*

**II. Graduate Council Committee Reports**

- A. New Programs Committee
  - 1. Electric-Drive Vehicle Engineering MS Program Proposal\*  
Simon Ng and Jerry Ku, College of Engineering
  - 2. Accelerated Master's Programs Proposal\*
- B. Executive Committee
- C. Scholarly Communication Committee/Graduate Exhibition

**III. Report of the Chair**

**IV. Old Business**

**V. New Business**

- A. Election of Executive Committee for 2010-2011\*
- B. Other New Business

**VI. Other Reports**

- A. Graduate Enrollment Services Office
- B. Graduate Student Coordinator
- C. Research Office Liaison
- D. Academic Senate Liaison
- E. University Libraries Liaison

**VII. Adjournment**

\* attachment

**Minutes of the  
Regular Meeting of March 24, 2010  
2:00 p.m., Adamany Undergraduate Library, Community Room**

Members Present: T. Edwards, K. English, M. Garrett, J. Green, D. Haase, B. Li, G. Mao, J. McComish, R. Pauley, S. Peters, A. Santiago, L. Schwiebert, R. Sundick, A. Suits, C. Waites, M. Wardell, C. Winston, Y. Xu, J. Yoon

Members Absent with Notice: L. Beale, A. Butler, J. Casida, M. Clark, J. Davis, S. Ilmer, A. Mathur, D. Onolemhemen, D. Pitts, K. Thompson

Members Absent: L. Baker, A. Duggan, M. Grimm, M. Neely, J. Stoltman, J. Thomas, A. Yaprak

Also Present: C. Barduca, T. Butler, G. Heppner, A. Hudson, J. Ku, S. Ng, M. Wood

The meeting was convened at 2:05 p.m. by the Chairperson, Dean Wardell.

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of February 17, 2009, with the correction that in the motion to increase the minimum GPA for Regular admission, the new minimum GPA would be 2.75, not 3.0 as recorded.

Dean Wardell asked to remove the Accelerated Master's Program Proposal from today's agenda.

**II. GRADUATE COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. NEW PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

Proposal for an Electric-Drive Vehicle Engineering MS Program

Associate Dean Simon Ng, College of Engineering, introduced the proposal for the master's degree, which is part of a larger electric-drive vehicle engineering (EVE) initiative that responds to the environmental and economic need to transform from petroleum-based to alternative fuel-based vehicles. The goal of the program is to prepare the current and future workforce with the education and skills necessary for the advancement and maintenance of electric-drive vehicles. The College received a \$5 million grant from the Department of Energy in support of the development of a comprehensive EVE program that includes, in addition to the EVE Master of Science degree, a Graduate Certificate and an undergraduate concentration in EVE; a baccalaureate degree in Electric Transportation Technology; and an associate's degree, in conjunction with Macomb Community College, in Automotive Technology and Electronic Engineering Technology. The multi-disciplinary curriculum is industry-oriented and based on input from industry and best practices in EVE curricula worldwide. Some online, web-based courses will be available. Laboratory experience, using newly-developed state of the art laboratories, is incorporated throughout the curriculum. Program development and evaluation will be overseen by an Advisory Board, consisting of

academic leaders and CEOs and presidents of corporations. Accreditation will be sought for the MS program.

The curriculum, admission and graduation requirements follow the typical College pattern. The 32-credit curriculum requires two core courses in EVE and battery systems fundamentals and 12 elective EVE courses offered through Engineering departments. Admission requirements include a bachelor's degree in engineering or mathematics-based science with a minimum GPA of 3.00. To graduate, students must maintain at least a 3.0 GPA and complete the curriculum. The grant funded the development of the comprehensive program and provides funds for initial implementation. Enrollment projections for the master's program are 30 students for the first year, 40 for the second, 50 for the third and then a steady state of 60. Three EVE laboratories were developed, dedicated to energy storage, electric propulsion and system control. All components of the EVE program are organized under the Advisory Board.

Associate Dean Ng responded to questions and comments. While the goal is to have all courses taught online eventually, the cost is so prohibitive that only a few courses will be online in the beginning. Dean Wardell noted that some money for online course development is available through the Educational Outreach Office. A few students will be supported by stipends from the grant, but most are anticipated to be supported by a local sponsor. When the resources are available and all courses can be online, students from around the country as well as overseas are anticipated to enroll. There is high demand for the program. Although nine other universities were funded to develop electric vehicle engineering programs, none have developed a comprehensive program, nor do they offer master's degrees. The Macomb associate degree program built on an existing program; students completing the associate degree can transfer to the Wayne State undergrad program. The library resources are sufficient for the program. The laboratories will be incorporated into the courses, and virtual or simulated laboratory work will be available, but set up of virtual time laboratory experiments is very costly. Administering online examinations is also a challenge. Members applauded, and Dean Wardell thanked Associate Dean Ng for a great presentation.

MOTION was made, seconded, and passed to approve the proposal for the Master of Science in Electric-drive Vehicle Engineering.

#### **B. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Professor Garrett reported that the proposal to increase standards for Graduate Faculty appointments was returned to the Academic Standards committee for consideration of broader issues regarding these appointments, but changes have not come forward. The Accelerated Master's Program was also discussed and placed on the Council agenda.

### **III. REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Dean Wardell reported that the admission GPA increase that the Council had approved in February and the Accelerated Master's Program (AMP) proposal on today's agenda were taken by the Provost to the Council of Deans for review and one was taken to the Academic Senate's Policy Committee. He noted that the Board of Governors has granted the Graduate Council the authority to approve policies and procedures regarding graduate education and the Executive Officer of the Graduate School the responsibility for approval and implementation of actions of the Council. While certain actions, such as approval of new programs, must go forward to the Provost and Board of Governors, in these two instances, the approval authority is vested in the Council. He asked Council members for advice on how to proceed in this specific instance as well in such matters in the future.

In response to questions, Dean Wardell explained the objections to the two proposals. The concern with raising the GPA was that it would reduce enrollment and certain groups of applicants could be cut out by the GPA increase to 2.75. Actually, only about 15 applicants in last Fall's pool would have been excluded by the proposed change. In addition, it was felt that the increase stemmed from a desire to emulate our benchmark institutions, almost all of which require a 3.0 admission GPA. The objections to the AMP proposal were that it was too inflexible: it does not allow students to choose the programs for an AMP and does not permit them to negotiate the courses they want to use in the AMP. In addition, the 3.5 GPA required for participation was considered too high, and the number credits to be double-counted also was too high; nine instead of 16 should be permitted for double-counting.

Dean Wardell said that the significant issue was the responsibility and authority for graduate education. He was concerned that decisions of the Graduate Council, the faculty body authorized to oversee graduate education, could be over-ridden by another body and asked for guidance on how to go forward. Members discussed the issue. If the Board has given the Council authority over graduate education, then it has the authority. Other bodies do not. The President should be consulted. Implementation of the items Council passed could go forward or could be delayed a few weeks.

Members discussed the AMP proposal. Developing a new AMP proposal would slow the process down. Double-counting of 16 credits makes it possible for students to complete the bachelor's and master's degrees in five years; nine credits do not. The AMP is intended for outstanding students, and the 3.5 GPA requirement helps to assure participation by students capable of completing the program. The current AGRADE program, which AMP will replace, requires a 3.5 GPA, allows double-counting of 16 credits and also requires approval for establishment of such programs. There was agreement that the AMP proposal should be returned to the New Programs Committee for consideration of the objections raised and that it should be returned to Council for a vote in April. It was also agreed that Dean Wardell should speak to the President regarding realms of authority and boundaries between units.

The discussion of the proposal to increase the admission GPA to 2.75 led to a discussion of retention. Dean Wardell said the data he examined for 2006 indicated that in two and a half years, less than 50% of master's students had graduated, and ironically, their admission GPA didn't affect the graduation rates. Additionally, the graduation rate was not affected by race. He did not know the correlation between admission GPA and graduation GPA, nor what the graduation rate was at the six-year mark. The discussion indicated a need to obtain vital data on retention and graduation. The motion recorded in the minutes of the February meeting to increase the admission GPA incorrectly stated the new GPA would be 3.0; it should have said 2.75.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 2010- 2011**

Dean Wardell said that members received the list of faculty eligible for nomination to the Executive Committee and asked for nominations. Five members were nominated; the Secretary will verify they will run. The nomination period will be open until March 31; nominations should be made to the Secretary.

#### **V. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **A. GRADUATE ENROLLMENT SERVICES**

Dr. Wood reported that the Graduate Open House will be held as part of the Graduate Exhibition on March 28. Nearly 250 people have signed up for it thus far. Fall applications are slightly behind last year, although admissions continue to be ahead about 10%.

**B. GRADUATE STUDENT COORDINATOR**

Charlotte Winston reported that two workshops in the Scholarly Communication Series have occurred since the last Council meeting. Both drew positive feedback from the participating students. The Dialogue with the Dean series has concluded for the semester. The series encouraged students to share their research and scholarship, and they enjoyed the exchange very much. The Graduate Exhibition will be held this Sunday.

**C. RESEARCH OFFICE LIAISON**

Associate Vice President Heppner reported that the Research Office is interested in highlighting faculty and graduate student research in press releases and internal research communications. She encouraged members to submit stories of graduate students involved in research to the attention of Julie O'Connor in the Research Office as a way of giving them recognition.

**D. UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES LIAISON**

Anne Hudson reported that the journal review process by the Libraries should be finalized by April 19<sup>th</sup>. The review was initiated to learn which journals were most used in the various disciplines. The final library workshop for graduate students will be on science information, held tomorrow. The five-year review process for the dean will begin this summer and will request feedback from the Council as part of the review.

**E. SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE**

Dean Wardell reported that the Graduate Exhibition includes 142 poster presentations by doctoral students, and eight visual arts, six theater and two film presentations as well as a dance program by six undergraduate students. Presentations will be judged and prize money will be awarded. He asked for volunteers to serve as judges and encouraged all members to attend.

**F. ANNOUNCEMENT**

Dean Wardell announced that the year's final Graduate Council meeting, scheduled for April 21<sup>st</sup>, has been postponed to April 28<sup>th</sup>. It will be held in the Alumni House Lounge at 2:00. A reception in honor of Mike Wood, who is retiring, will follow the meeting. He invited all members to attend.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Krista L. English*

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Secretary of the Graduate Council