Graduate Council Minutes
April 20, 2016
Chancellors Room, Davies Center

Members Present: Carney (Chair), Amdahl (Secretary), Erffmeyer, Fessler, Hoadley, Jansen, Long, Manning, Samelson, Tusing, VanWormer, Vaughan

Guests: Aminpour, Benson, Kolis

The meeting was called to order by Interim Dean Michael Carney at 3:02 p.m.

1. Announcements:
   - Status of search for Graduate Dean (Hoadley): On-campus interviews will be conducted the week of May 2-5. The five candidates along with their interview schedules will be posted. The Graduate Council will have a separate meeting with each candidate. You are encouraged to attend and provide your feedback to the search committee. The committee expects to have someone selected by the end of this semester.
   - The winner of our 2016 Distinguished Master’s Thesis competition, Jamie Vue, a graduate from the MA-English Writing program will return to campus Tuesday, April 26, to present her winning thesis, “Mountain Dreams.” The celebration will be held at 2:00pm in the Lantern Lounge of Centennial Hall, Room 3000. All are invited to attend; refreshments will be served.
   - Since our last meeting, the following proposed graduate curricular changes have been posted in UWEC Announcements. Hearing no objections, these changes will stand as approved by their college:
     - A&S posted course changes on December 17, 2015.
     - CONHS posted course changes on February 24, 2016.
   - Following our new protocol for proposed changes to graduate degree program requirements, two emails were sent last week. If no objections are heard within 30 days, these recommendations will stand as approved and the degree audits will be updated:
     - School Psychology has proposed changes to their MSE and EdS degrees.
     - Nursing has proposed changes to two of their BSN to DNP programs.

2. The minutes of November 18, 2015, were approved as distributed.

3. Consider Recommendation to Suspend On-Campus MBA Program:
   - The College of Business manages two forms of the MBA degree—the traditional face-to-face (on-campus) and the online MBA consortium. The college is recommending immediate suspension of the on-campus MBA program; resources will be devoted to the consortium MBA degree program.
   - In the past 5-10 years, there has been a gradual shift of students moving from the on-campus to the online program. Only 10 students were enrolled in the on-campus Mod 1 (MBA 711) course this past fall.
   - The MBA program stopped accepting new students to the on-campus MBA program in December of 2015.
   - Banks, Xcel Energy, and other large employers, used to send their employees to the MBA program, but not anymore. JAMF employees still attend, but they prefer the online program.
   - The MBA program has tried reaching out to alums, chamber of commerce, etc. The number of students enrolled in the program from the Chippewa Valley remains about the same, but most prefer the online program.
   - Students accepted to the on-campus MBA program for the 2014-15 Fall Semester will be the last cohort to enroll in the on-campus offerings of the four required module courses.
   - To suspend a program means the program could be brought back to campus without going through UW System for approvals. (We believe there is a 7-year time limit for reviving suspended programs.)
   - The MBA program made an effort to contact all students accepted to the on-campus MBA degree who are still active in CampS but have not graduated.
   - If students resurface after the on-campus program has been suspended they will have the opportunity to complete their remaining coursework online. If they return by the fall of 2016, they will still be able to take the final offering of Mod 3 (Fall 2016) and Mod 4 (Spring 2017) on our campus (if they meet the prerequisites).
   - It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to suspend the on-campus MBA program. A notice will be submitted to the UWEC Announcements for 30 days.

4. Consider Proposed Policy Change to Enrollment of Undergraduates for Graduate Credit:
- The current policy (cited below) appears in the 2015-16 Undergraduate Catalog (page 33), and the changes proposed by the Department of English are underlined in red. [The word “approved” has been amended by APC.]

Enrollment of Undergraduates for Graduate Credit. Upon the recommendation of the student’s adviser, course instructor, and chair of the department offering the course, a University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire undergraduate student may be allowed to enroll in a limited number of graduate courses, provided he or she has a 3.00 undergraduate GPA and has the approval of the College Dean. Qualified students may take up to, but not exceed, a total of nine credits of graduate-level course work, unless enrolled in an [approved] accelerated graduate plan with a dual bachelor’s and master’s degree component. The graduate credits cannot be used to satisfy requirements for the bachelor’s degree, unless enrolled in an [approved] accelerated graduate plan with a dual bachelor’s and master’s degree component. Application forms for enrollment in graduate courses as an undergraduate may be obtained from the Registrar’s Office.

- These proposed changes would provide exceptions to the policies that currently (1) limit undergraduate students to nine credits of graduate coursework and (2) prohibit graduate credits from counting toward an undergraduate degree.

- The Department of English requests these changes to allow for the creation and implementation of an accelerated graduate plan with a dual bachelor’s and master’s degree component. They would like to admit outstanding undergraduate students to their existing Master of Arts – English: Literature and Textual Interpretation and Master of Arts – English: Writing degree programs. These students could earn their BA/BS in English while also earning credits toward their MA degree in English at UWEC.

- Approval of a dual-degree program would require a change to our existing policy, whereby undergraduate students are allowed to take up to nine graduate credits, but these graduate credits may NOT be used to satisfy requirements for their bachelor’s degree.

- Several key offices have been consulted regarding the possible change in policy, including Financial Aid, Registrar’s Office, etc. Although there are some complications, it is possible.

- The graduate faculty of the Department of English approved the proposed accelerated graduate plan in October 2015. The College of Arts and Science Curriculum Committee endorsed the plan in February 2016. The APC approved the proposal yesterday with an amendment (see next comment), and APC will bring forward this proposed policy change to Senate; however, it may not happen this term.

- The APC suggested the addition of the word “approved” prior to the text “…accelerated graduate plan…” in the proposed policy above (see above in brackets).

- The current policy limits undergraduate student to enroll in 9 graduate credits; the Department of English is proposing that students be allowed to enroll in up to 12 graduate credits as long as they are enrolled in an approved dual degree program.

- How many students would they expect in this dual degree program? Fessler stated that other institutions say the number is small. Perhaps the program could expect up to 10 students, five per track.

- A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the language proposed to the Enrollment of Undergraduates for Graduate Credit policy (see above), with the addition of the word “approved” as amended by APC.

5. Other business: None

The meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy J. Amdahl
Secretary to the Graduate Council
May 4, 2016

*Copies of the handouts distributed at GC meetings may be obtained from the Office of Graduate Studies.