Graduate Council Minutes
January 28, 2015
Chancellors Room, Davies Center

Members Present: Wick (Chair), Amdahl (Secretary), Amann, Cassidy, Erffmeyer, Fessler, Hoadley, Jansen, Kingsbury, Kretz, Pederson, Perchinsky, Pollitz, Samelson, Scukanec, Sias, Tusing, Vaughan

Guests: Alex Smith

The meeting was called to order by Dean Michael Wick at 3:01 p.m.

1. The minutes of November 19, 2014, were approved as written.
2. Announcements:
   - When requesting a new graduate course or major changes to an existing graduate course or program, the process requires department, college curriculum, and college dean approval. The college dean’s office will notify Graduate Studies of approved changes and post the change(s) in the UWEC Announcements (online). Once posted for 30 days without objections, the changes are officially approved. If objections raised, then items shall be placed on an upcoming Graduate Council agenda.
   - The following changes have been formally approved:
     - A&S has approved four new graduate courses (FREN 630, GEOL 661, HIST 796, and WMNS 508), revised 27 graduate courses, and removed three courses. Posted November 17, 2014.
     - A&S has approved six new graduate courses in Data Science (DS prefix). Posted December 16, 2014.
   - The following changes have been approved by their college, and will become official once the expiration of the 30-day posting (assuming no objections):
     - Nursing has requested to reinstate their two MSN degree options for Nurse Administrators. Posted Jan 5, 2015.
     - Nursing is proposing a new emphasis in their post-master’s DNP program for Nurse Executives, a 29-credit program intended for those who already have a master’s degree in nurse administration (versus those who are prepared as nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialists). Posted Jan 5, 2015.
     - A&S is proposing a Public History emphasis in their existing MA-History program. Posted Jan 26, 2015.
3. Consider Request for Authorization to Implement a Collaborative Online Master of Science Degree in Data Science*:
   - On December 11, 2014, the college of A&S approved a proposal to implement an online collaborative Master of Science Degree in Data Science.
   - Proposed as a collaborative degree that would involve six UW campuses, with administrative and financial support from UW-Extension, as the managing partner.
   - The entire curriculum of this program must be authorized by each campus before moving forward.
   - Dr. Alex Smith will be the Program Director on our campus, and he is here today for any questions.
   - The proposed tuition of $850 per credit was questioned. Smith explained that the tuition was based on the cost of the software, which is going to be decided by each course, and can be costly.
   - The financial model is similar to BPS program - all expenses to operate the program will initially be covered by UW-Extension, but eventually will be a self-sustaining program. There will be decision points as we move forward. The financials will need to be ironed out a bit more. No campus resources will be going into this program.
   - We need to notify UW-Extension that we have a genuine concern about the expense and quality of the data sets and software.
   - Prerequisites for admission to the MS-DS program will include a bachelor’s degree, an elementary statistics course, and some database experience.
   - The audience will be people working in the industry; not the traditional student. The student will work directly with the program director at their select campus.
   - Since some business education will be incorporated in coursework, there was some concern expressed about the program including too much business, rather than being an analytic program. Wick encouraged Smith to share these concerns with the consortium group as well as Smith’s future replacement as our campus representative.
• The motion to approve and support the Request for Authorization to Implement a Collaborative Online Master of Science Degree in Data Science was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved.

4. Other Business:
• Wick encouraged members of the Council to attend the upcoming budget meetings.
• Send your graduate-related concerns and suggestions regarding the newly revised campus website to Nancy. Please submit your suggestions for other website concerns using the pop-up box (available at: http://uwec.ly/webfeedback). All comments are anonymous. The web design folks have been listening to suggestions and making changes when appropriate.
• Concerns were expressed about graduate admission numbers decreasing because of the recent website changes.
• Frustrations were expressed about “Apply” and “Give” as the headlines of our website.
• Wick reminded members that lobbying with legislatures is their right as a citizen, although it must be done on your own time, using with your own resources, and not on campus letterhead.

The meeting adjourned at 3:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy J. Amdahl
Secretary to the Graduate Council
April 16, 2015

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