Graduate Council Minutes  
September 16, 2015  
Chancellors Room, Davies Center

Members Present: Wick (Chair), Amdahl (Secretary), Amann, Erffmeyer, Fessler, Havholm, Hibbard, Jansen, Laskowski, Leaman, Manning, Pederson, Samelson, Tusing, VanWormer, Vaughan, Wildberg

Guests: R. Battalio, J. O’Connor, J. Vahlbusch

The meeting was called to order by Dean Michael Wick at 3:05 p.m.

1. The minutes of January 28, 2015, were approved as written.
2. Introductions
3. Announcements:

Graduate Curriculum Updates:
- The online MS-Data Science collaborative program was approved by Board of Regents. Program is coordinated by UWEX, and includes UWEC and five other UW campuses: Green Bay, La Crosse, Oshkosh, Stevens Point & Superior. A total of 42 students are enrolled this first semester; 13 of these students selected UWEC as their home campus. Four more students have already been accepted to UWEC for next semester.
- Ten new UEC (Unified Early Childhood) courses were posted in UWEC Announcements for 30 days; hearing no objections, these courses stand as approved by the college.
- Several updates to A&S graduate courses were posted in UWEC Announcements, hearing no objections, these courses stand as approved by the college.

Other Announcements:
- Graduate enrollments are up from past few years. Fall 2015 = 571 students; Fall 2014 = 507; Fall 2013 = 510. Main increases: second cohort of online MS-CSD students, new MS-Data Science, MBA up about 18 students.
- Wick requested that the $100 registration deposit be waived for graduate students. For now, this will require a manual waiver at acceptance. The Bursar is looking for a way to discontinue subsequent registration holds so we won’t need to manually waive the deposit each term.
  - GC members were impressed and appreciative of Wick’s recommendation.
  - GC members encouraged Wick to pursue this waiver for all special students as well.
  - Due to waiting lists and limited space in some courses, it was expressed that we may want some timely commitment from students. Wick is willing to work with program to find a solution.
- Call for nominations for Distinguished Master’s Thesis Competition: nominations due to Graduate Studies by October 1. Programs will still be required to offer a reader if they nominated a thesis, BUT they will only be asked to judge the papers from outside of their department. In the future, Wick may discontinue an outside reader.
- Wick will meet with Program Directors to discuss some recommendations for improvement from Dr. Scukanec. Any recommendations for change will be brought forward to GC.
- Graduate degree audits are now LIVE. At this time, students in the standard MEPD will still need to submit a written graduate degree program plan for approval.
- An Eform is now available to submit substitutions and waivers for graduate students. The “Graduate Program Change” Eform is available under “Forms” on Graduate Studies website, or under “Graduate Studies” in BPLogix (eform1.uwec.edu). The form may be initiated by the student, adviser, or another faculty/staff member. The adviser will need to select the appropriate program director and college dean. Upon final review of Wick, a PDF will be created and emailed to all involved, and forwarded to Degree Review to update the student’s online degree audit.
4. Program Review of Department of Education Studies*:
  - This program review was done last spring, but was never brought forward to GC.
  - Only two recommendations from the review committees were specific to graduate studies, and they were similar:
    - IRC recommended a separate review be done of the graduate programs in Education Studies.
    - ERC recommended that the department revisit the goals and content of graduate programs.
- It was suggested that we take a more focused look within education overall, how programs might overlap, and the viability of moving all graduate programs forward.
- Dean Manning provided an update on the status of graduate programs in Education Studies:
  o Due to budget crisis, we have not been able to focus on revisions to programs as much as we had hoped.
  o Director of Special Education and Pupil Services (DSEPS) program is going strong. They receive more applications than they can accept; looking into hiring more help and adding a second cohort.
  o MST-Reading program used to be a strong residential program. Other institutions offer this program online; we are trying to create a more online cohort-model with flexibility.
  o We need to decide if UWEC should remain in the Library Science consortium. Amann will be retiring soon.
  o ME-Professional Development program used to be popular with teachers. We need to figure out how to respond to the needs of teachers, schools, and all the changes since post Act 10. We need to figure out what we can offer our local schools, according to the incentives in their handbooks.
  o We may need to focus more on licensure programs, rather than being everything to everybody.
  o There is a need for a hybrid principal license program. Students are interested; we have expertise to grow a strong program. ES is working with CE to look at options. Some would just be looking for the license, while others may need to earn a master’s degree as well, since a master’s degree is required for license.
- Chair Battalio added:
  o We have great ideas; however, we need to determine if/how we can sustain a graduate program with current faculty/staff.
  o The previously offered MEPD weekend cohort model was successful.
  o Demand has changed dramatically.
    ▪ Act 10 negated collective bargaining, which was years of service plus additional credits. Each school district has their own handbook for pay increases and promotions.
    ▪ In 2004, the Professional Development Plan (PDP) came into effect. Previously, teachers were required to earn six credits every five years for continuing license; credits no longer required.
- IRC comments:
  o The institution needs to take a look at all of the graduate programs in education.
- Discussion:
  o We need to check the reward systems in handbooks across the school districts. This information would be helpful to other graduate programs as well. Perhaps we can influence conversations for these handbooks.
  o We need to collaborate with our schools when developing our graduate programs.
    ▪ Investigate the potential to offer a graduate education degree; not necessarily the MEPD program.
    ▪ The MEPD served a broad group of students; now we’re in more of a “niche market.”
    ▪ Perhaps UWS should offer a collaborative core program, and each campus offer their own niche.
  o Wick summarized:
    ▪ This body is in agreement of the recommendations of the IRC and ERC.
    ▪ We should take a broader look at all graduate programs in education, current demand, opportunities, and limitations.
    ▪ Wick will work with Manning to solicit people interested in participating in this review. Given this recommendation came out of a program review process, we will bring findings back to this body.
    ▪ Hearing no objections, Wick will check the two “agree” boxes on the Education Studies program review form to show our support of the IRC and ERC recommendations.
    ▪ Wick thanked the IRC members for their thoughtful and thorough work on the IRC report.

5. Other Business: none
The meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy J. Amdahl
Secretary to the Graduate Council
October 29, 2015

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