
1. The meeting was called to order by Interim Dean Andrew Phillips at 3:02 p.m.
2. The minutes of December 13, 2006, were approved as written.
3. Announcements from Dean Phillips:
   * At our last Graduate Council meeting we approved an updated version of the graduate catalogue. This updated catalogue with tracked changes, along with additional updates made at this meeting, will be presented at a Graduate Faculty meeting on February 21, which will then be followed by our regularly scheduled GC meeting.
   * Topics of discussion for later in the semester:
     - Should the Office of Graduate Studies conduct exit interviews?
     - Update bylaws, such as the section on graduate program suspensions and reactivations.
     - Strategic planning: Evaluate growth of existing programs, and consider adding new programs, if feasible.
     - How can we best keep in communication with all students? Evaluate possibility of a “free audit” course.
     - Notify Dean Phillips if you have issues to be added to a future agenda.
4. The Council continued their discussion about the graduate catalogue updates. Items discussed:
   * Admission GPA: Should we increase the current undergraduate (U/G) GPA admission requirement of 2.75 to a minimum of 3.0? Some individual programs already have a higher U/G GPA requirement than 2.75. A survey was done to see what other UW campus require, and they range from 2.75-3.0. The MBA program would like to see data on the number of new students that are admitted with an U/G GPA of less than 3.0. No decision was made.
   * Discontinue admission status of “Probation”: New students will need to be admitted in “Full Standing” or “Conditional” status. In the past, most students that were admitted on probation had an U/G GPA below 2.75. These students would now be admitted as conditional students, and would be given specific instructions. For example, “As a condition of your admission, you must receive a “B” (3.0) or better in your first three graduate courses.” Once the conditions have been met, then the student would be moved to full standing. Students who fall below the required 3.0 graduate GPA once they have been admitted will still be placed on probation. This form of “on probation” will not be changed, although the description has been rephrased in the updated catalogue.
   * This additional sentence will be added to the “Graduation” paragraph in the catalogue: Graduate students must be admitted in “full standing” to a specific degree program to be eligible for graduation.
   * The Council unanimously approved the removal of the “probationary” status of admission and the addition to the “Graduation” paragraph, so these changes will be added to the catalogue that was approved at our last meeting. However, the U/G GPA for admission will remain at 2.75. Data will be reviewed before we officially increase the U/G GPA. The Office of Admissions requests that if we do increase the GPA requirements that we start with new applicants for the 2008 Fall Semester. Discussion will continue after GPA data has been evaluated.
5. Thesis, Research Paper, Scholarly Paper/Project, and Portfolio—How do these papers differ?
   * In general, most programs agreed that research papers typically involve less work and/or research than a thesis, and they are often shorter in length. The MEPD program is in the process of defining each of their exit options, including Scholarly Paper. The Scholarly Project is only offered in the MS-Nursing program.
   * In general, most programs seem to agree that it would be fine to recommend, rather than require, that the research paper be bound (like the thesis). However, Dean Phillips asked that members go back to their departments to seek input and we will follow-up at a future meeting.
   * The “PR” that appears on a student’s official transcript when registered for a thesis or research paper remains on the transcript forever; however, a notation is made on the student’s transcript once the Registrar’s Office has been notified by Graduate Studies that the student has officially submitted the bound copies.
6. Dean Phillips mentioned that he is uncomfortable with requiring students to pay the “Graduation Only” fee, although he also expressed that a graduate fee is common nationwide. The Registrar reminded everyone that not only do we not charge a graduation fee, but we also do not charge a fee for transcripts, which is nice cost savings for students.
7. The Office of Graduate Studies was commended for the creation of the first e-newsletter for graduate students.

The meeting adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Amdahl
Secretary to the Graduate Council
January 31, 2007