Graduate Council Minutes  
March 27, 2013  
Chancellors Room, Davies Center

Members Present:  Wick (Chair), Amdahl, Baker, Hoadley, Jansen, Kudrna, Long, Pastrana, Scukanec, Shaddock, Stadler, Tusing, Vaughan, Zinser  
Guests:  J. Aminpour, M. Hoffman, C. Manning, V. Samelson

The meeting was called to order by Dean Michael Wick at 3:00 p.m.

1. The minutes of January 30, 2013, were approved as written.

2. Graduate Program Review for Department of English*  
   - Carmen Manning, Chair, and Jennifer Shaddock, Graduate Program Director were in attendance to represent the Department of English. Mary Hoffman represented the Internal Review Committee.  
   - Dean Wick noted that the reports were glowing, with only a few concerns.  
      1) Graduate student enrollments are down in the program.  
         - The current economy may be part of the reason for the decrease in enrollment.  
         - The Chronicle states that enrollments in master degree programs in English are down ~20%.  
         - The elimination of the MAT-English program may have eliminated some potential students.  
         - If the graduate program in English continues, aggressive strategies for recruitment will need to be done. The department will need help with marketing their graduate programs.  
      2) Faculty workload  
         - According to a survey, 61 percent of the faculty within the department are generally in support of continuing their graduate program.  
         - The department would be more willing to continue their graduate programs if the institution would provide more support, such as recognizing faculty workload. Example: Every student is required to do six credits of thesis work, but these credits are not counted into faculty load.  
         - The department estimates that 10 to 15 new students per year would be viable.  
         - The department has not discussed how to balance the demand of graduate students and freshmen seminar, although they recognize that taking from one takes away from another. They are open for ideas.  
         - Dean Wick offered to work with the department chair to discuss workload.  
      - The salary for our graduate assistants appears to be significantly less than other institutions.  
      - The department wants to know they have the support of administration to continue their graduate programs. If not, they may consider discontinuing their graduate programs.  
      - Many faculty within the department would feel a deep loss if they were to discontinue their graduate program.  
      - A large percentage of our students are going into MFA and doctoral programs, and University administration. About 20 percent of our students are teachers.  
      - Should we be trying to accommodate all students or target specific groups?  
      - More tuition remission and foundation support would be helpful in recruiting new students. Dean Wick offered to check into this, but believes that most tuition remission is spent at undergraduate level.  
      - Dean Wick reminded all programs that the Publication Office is a free service, but printing brochures and placing advertisements requires a budget. Continuing Education can do an interest survey, and Graduate Studies has paid for these services in the past. This may be a good starting point for English.  
      - Manning recognized Shaddock for her nine years as graduate program director and stated that Shaddock has carried their graduate program.  
      - Dean Wick thanked the department and the review committee for their time and thorough review.
3. Graduate Program Review for Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders*
   - Marie Stadler, Chair and Graduate Program Coordinator, as well as Vicki Samelson, incoming Graduate Program Coordinator, were in attendance to represent the Department of CSD. Mary Beth Tusing represented the Internal Review Committee.
   - Dean Wick spoke of the overwhelmingly positive reports, and complimented the department on their innovative ideas to address their lack of resources.
   - Graduate Accreditation Report was accepted as their self-study report. Therefore, internal and external reviews were primarily referring to the department’s undergraduate program.
   - The department is not required to do clinical work at the undergraduate level, but they do, which puts our graduates at an advantage over other students. The department recognizes the cost and resources of offering this clinical opportunity, and they have made accommodations for students to work in pairs with clients, etc.
   - The vast majority of the students that are accepted into the graduate CSD program have had clinical experience. The online CSD graduate students will do their clinical experience wherever they live.

4. The minutes of January 30, 2013, were approved as written.

5. Updates to Graduate Catalog:
   - A list of the suggested edits to the 2013-2015 Graduate Catalog was distributed*. If you have any questions, please contact Graduate Studies.
   - Stadler inquired about adding information for the new online MS-CSD program. Dean Wick will check with the Provost.

6. Announcements and Other Business:
   - ORSP received more funding requests from graduate students for travel and research than usual this year. The Provost provided some additional funds, but these have been depleted as well. Therefore, funds are very limited until the start of the new fiscal year, July 1.
   - Blugold Commitment is for undergraduate students. If we are going to offer graduate education, where are the resources to support our programs?
   - Commencement: There is talk of not hooding the graduate students at the commencement ceremonies. The talk is that the students will come up with hood already on -- how do you feel about that?
     - Discontinuation of the hooding process would be a great loss. It’s just another way to put graduate students on bottom.
     - The commencement ceremony is too long.
     - One of the objectives of combining undergraduate and graduates at commencement was to have undergraduates witness the recognition of those in the graduate program. Without hooding, there is no differentiating between the undergraduates from graduates.
     - Suggestions:
       - Offer a third ceremony, but not a separate ceremony just for the graduate students.
       - Recognize all graduate students at same time.
       - Self-hooding
       - Hold a separate hooding ceremony. Explain what the hooding represents, importance, etc.
       - Cut down on speakers.
   - Information regarding the “Countdown to Commencement” event will be coming soon. All candidates for graduation this May are encouraged to attend this event to take care of all their graduation details.
   - The “Thesis of the Year” ceremony will be held April 25, and more information will be coming soon.

The meeting adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Amdahl
Secretary to the Graduate Council
April 23, 2013

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