Graduate Council Minutes  
April 18, 2012  
Alumni Room, Davies Center

Members Present: Wick (Chair), Amdahl, Anderson, Barnier, Barrett, Erffmeyer, Hoadley, Jadack, Jansen, Prushiek, Santee-Buenger, Scukanec, Shaddock, Stadler, Sutton, Young, Zinser

Guests: R. Hollon, M. Kolis, C. Muller, M. Wiggins

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

1. The minutes of February 22, 2012, were approved as written.

2. Announcements:
   - There will not be any changes to the commencement ceremony for this May. The first Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) candidates will attend the same ceremony as the rest of the graduate students, which is in the afternoon with the College of Arts and Sciences. The discussion continues as to how to arrange the commencement ceremonies in the future.
   - In October of 2007, the Graduate Council (under Dean Phillips) voted to redefine academic credit load, for the purpose of financial aid. This vote included to decrease the full-time status of 9 credits during the academic year to 8 credits, which Phillips later discovered was a Board of Regents decision. Unfortunately, we dropped the ball and never sent through the other credit changes that we are able to make on our campus. Therefore, Dean Wick recently submitted a request to the Registrar and the Office of Financial Aid to decrease half-time status during the academic year from 5 to 4 credits, and, to decrease the full-time status during the summer session from 7 to 6 credits, and half-time from 4 to 3 credits. Enrollment in at least one thesis credit will still be considered full-time. Council members were pleased with this decision, and no concerns were expressed.

3. Review of the Department of Nursing:
   - Committee members were sent the materials that were submitted from the Department of Nursing*, with the exception of a self-study report. The department was allowed to use their self-study from their national accreditation, which was two thick reports, so these hard copies were available for check-out from the Office of Graduate Studies.
   - Dean Wick introduced the representatives from the Internal Review Committee (IRC) present at this meeting and noted that they were available for questions.
   - The Department of Nursing received their national reaccreditation for 10 more years. However, since the DNP program is new, it will need to be reviewed in 5 years.
   - Dean Wick praised the members of the IRC for their wonderful report, stating “It was a thorough, unbiased, and insightful review of the program.”
   - Dean Wick spoke highly of the many dedicated, hard-working, and knowledgeable experts within the Department of Nursing, along with many other positive comments about the staff and program.
   - Dean Wick spoke of the workload issue that was addressed within the reports, which is a common issue with clinical-based programs. As part of this process, Dean Wick would like to see Nursing create a list of ideas to address the workload issues, and perhaps he and others of the Council could assist by discussing the kinds of ideas that have or have not worked for them. Perhaps Nursing could even present a model that might work for other clinical-based programs.
   - Due to human resource issues, the accelerated BSN program has been put on hold for now.
   - Dean Wick offered to bring a draft letter of the Council’s response to the next GC meeting, regarding this program review.
4. On-Line Graduate Certificate in Adult Learning
   - Committee members were sent a proposal for an online graduate certificate in adult learning*, along with the Policy Statement on Graduate Certificate Programs (approved by GC on 11/19/08)*.
   - Faculty and staff from the Department of Education Studies and from Continuing Education were available for questions.
   - The proposed certificate requires five 3-credit online courses, for a total of 15 graduate credits at the 700-level. These online courses will be held for 6 weeks each, with 3 weeks off between courses. Of the five required courses, one is an existing course (ES 776), and other four are new courses recently approved at the college level (ES 777, ES 778, ES 779, ES 780). These four new courses were submitted to UWEC Notices (a.k.a. University Bulletin) on 4/13/12. If no one objects within 30 days, the certificate will be considered for approval by the Graduate Council.
   - A survey was done and there appeared to be a local demand for this type of certificate. It was originally talked about as a non-credit certificate, but most potential students preferred a credit-based program.

5. Other Business:
   - The Provost has announced that the search for the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences has been terminated, and an interim dean will be appointed while the college can look at the possibility of splitting the college into smaller, more manageable divisions. Graduate Council would be encouraged to weigh-in on this discussion. No discussion has taken place as to how this might impact the graduate programs within the college.
   - It was mentioned that the lack of a permanent (non-interim) dean in the College of Arts and Sciences has been harmful to the college.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy J. Amdahl
Secretary to the Graduate Council
May 14, 2012

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