Graduate Council Minutes
April 20, 2011
Presidents Room, Davies Center

Members Present: Wick (Chair), Amdahl, Barrett, Erffmeyer, Hoadley, Jadack, Jansen, Loomis, Macaul, O’Connell, Pearson, Pederson, Pollitz, Quinn, Scukanec, Stadler, Sutton, Wood

Guests: C. Koroghlanian

The meeting was called to order by Dean Michael Wick at 3:04 p.m.

Dean Wick welcomed Dr. Doug Pearson. Pearson graciously agreed to serve as Interim Director of Continuing Education, since George Kroeninger has accepted a position as Associate Dean with UW-Extension. Thank you Doug!

1. The minutes of the special meeting with Provost Kleine on March 2, 2011, were approved as written.
   - Dean Wick mentioned he had learned some members were not aware the title and responsibilities of the Dean of Graduate Studies had been removed from the AVC position (starting 7/1/11) until after our meeting with Provost Kleine. Several members agreed that they had not known.
   - It is not clear where the Graduate Dean position is going at this time, but Dean Wick offered to bring any thoughts about the position back to the Provost.
   - We need to have a campus conversation about the vacancy of the Dean position very soon!
   - The nature of the work of AVC of AA and Dean of Graduate Studies is so different, and the AVC position is very time consuming; therefore, splitting these two positions made sense.
   - At the Executive Committee meeting in December (when the title of Dean of Graduate Studies was removed from the AVC position), it was agreed upon that the campus would need to address this vacancy before July 1.
   - Members of the Council expressed that they would like to be part of this decision.
   - There was strong support to reconnect graduate studies with research.
   - It was mentioned that it is common to link graduate education with a revenue-generating unit.
   - During the recent HLC reaccreditation, the review team was supportive of our campus moving to a more centralized model with our graduate programming.
   - It was noted that these minutes would be shared with Provost Kleine.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM DEAN WICK:
   - Guy Lewinski, a 2010 spring graduate of the MA-History program, will be honored at the “Thesis of the Year” banquet on Wednesday, May 4, 2:00-2:50pm, in CETL. Everyone is invited.
   - Joey Bohl, Assistant Director of Admissions, has notified us that GRE scores will be changing this August. You may need to update your written policies referring to GRE scores.
   - Dean Wick welcomed Jim Barrett, our new Registrar, and asked him to continue with the final announcement.
   - Barrett announced that the Department of Education has new regulations related to federal financial aid going into effect 7/1/11. These new regulations concern students repeating coursework more than twice. If a course is repeatable for credit, it must be clearly stated, and include how many times it may be repeated. A list of courses that need to be reviewed will be sent to Associate Deans. The Registration Office may need to create an addendum of repeatable courses for this year. The Registrar’s Office will be testing the “repeat” functions in PeopleSoft. In short, we may need to renumber some of our courses that are repeatable for credit, but just stay tuned for now.
3. CONSIDER RESEARCH PAPER CREDITS AS FULL-TIME STUDY:
   - Currently, a student enrolled in at least one credit of thesis (XXXX799) is considered to be full-time for financial aid purposes. However, research paper credits (XXXX795) are not treated the same. It has been asked that we treat enrollment in research paper credits as full-time study as well.
   - Someone expressed concern that a student could receive full time credit for working on their thesis for multiple semesters by just enrolling in a single credit, while other students are required to be enrolled in at least six credits to be full-time.
   - The history department noted that their thesis and research papers are not that different, except that they require six credits for a thesis and three credits for a research paper.
   - We do not have campus-wide definitions for a thesis, research paper, scholarly paper, etc., so until we have definitions it is difficult to make this kind of decision. Although we may not all agree on the definitions of (and distinction between) a research paper and a thesis, hopefully departments could agree on their own definitions.
   - The idea of developing a “continuous enrollment” credit was mentioned. Jim Barrett is willing to work with us to look at the different options in PeopleSoft.

In anticipation of the possible cancellation of our final meeting in May, Dean Wick thanked everyone, noting that this may be his last Graduate Council meeting as Dean.

The meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Amdahl
Secretary to the Graduate Council
May 3, 2011

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