Graduate Council Minutes  
September 19, 2012  
Chancellors Room, Davies Center

Members Present:  Wick (Chair), Amdahl, Havholm, Hoadley, Jadack, Jansen, Kudrna, Long, Pinkney Pastrana, Pollitz, Prushiek, Scukanec, Shaddock, Stadler, Sutton, Yanzick  
Guests:  G. Kocken, V. Samelson

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

1. Introductions

2. The minutes of May 16, 2012, and May 21, 2012, were approved as written, although Dr. Jansen will be added as being present at the special meeting on May 21.

3. Announcements:

   - A call for nominations has been sent out for the “Thesis of the Year” competition. An electronic copy of the thesis and a nomination letter should be submitted to Graduate Studies by noon of October 3. One submission per department, and each program nomination will require a volunteer reader.

   - The UWEC Graduate and Professional School Fair has been cancelled for this year.

   - We are working with the Registrar’s Office and LTS to create a “continuous enrollment” feature. We are hoping that students will just be able to contact our office and we can code them as an “Affiliate User,” which will allow them to continue to have access to campus resources without enrolling in a credit for the semester. They will still need to be currently enrolled to graduate.

   - We have a meeting scheduled with Kathy Sahlhoff to discuss some of the financial aid concerns with graduate students.

4. Electronic Thesis Submission:  Students will now have the option to upload their thesis or research paper electronically, rather than submitting two hard-bound copies to our office.  The new “Thesis Dissemination Consent Form” was distributed for review.* It was recommended that we require the signature of the student’s thesis adviser to verify that the student has discussed their decision with the adviser. Students who choose to upload electronically will still need to submit one signed UNBOUND copy of their final paper to Graduate Studies, and that copy will be scanned and uploaded to Minds@UW. [Note: Dean Wick has approved the implementation of the electronic submission to start with the 2012 Fall Semester.]

5. Consideration of Increase of Transfer Credits to DNP Program:  The College of Nursing and Health Sciences has requested that we consider increasing the number of transfer credits for the BSN to DNP degree since this program requires 68-73 graduate credits.  In their research, they found that UW-Madison allows 18 transfer credits to their BSN to DNP program, and UW-Milwaukee allows 12 credits or 40% of the total credits.  The current policy limit of nine graduate transfer credits is insufficient for their program, so they are requesting that a maximum of 20 graduate credits be transferrable.  This request has already been approved by their college Graduate Curriculum and Admissions Committee. The motion to allow a maximum of 20 graduate transfer credits for the BSN to DNP program was moved and seconded to be discussed.

   - Currently there are no “program specific” transfer credit limits.  However, this is the first doctoral degree.

   - No rationale was found for why we currently limit nine transfer credits.  It was suggested that perhaps it is because 9 is 30% of 30, and most graduate programs require 30 credits.
- We do not have a written transfer policy on post-master’s credits, but we are assuming nine transfer credits per graduate degree. Therefore, up to nine graduate credits are allowed for the post-master’s DNP.

- It was suggested that we allow a percentage of transferable credits, based on the number of credits required of the student’s specific program. However, the College of Nursing would prefer to set a maximum number of transferable credits, so the limit doesn’t vary student by student.

- It was recommended that when we evaluate our policies that we also consider and discuss the pedagogy.

- The motion to allow a maximum of 20 graduate transfer credits for the BSN to DNP program was passed unanimously. Dean Wick agreed to draft language for the update to the Graduate Catalog.

6. Nationally vs. Regionally Accredited Institutions: At our last meeting, Kris Anderson had suggested that since we are now accepting some undergraduate credits from Globe University, that we may want to discuss whether we are willing to recognize baccalaureate degrees from nationally accredited institutions for entrance to our graduate programs, rather than holding to our “regionally accredited” degree requirement. Globe University was used as an example of an institution that is nationally accredited, but not regionally accredited.

- What’s the difference? Regionally accredited institutions are predominantly academically oriented, non-profit institutions. Nationally accredited schools are predominantly for-profit institutions.

- Who is their accrediting body? Globe is accredited by Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS), which is a nationally recognized accrediting agency by the U.S. Department of Education and is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

- When and why did undergraduate credits from nationally accredited institutions become acceptable at UWEC?

- What are other graduate programs within the UW System doing? Will we be disadvantaged in any way if we don’t change?

- Dean Wick will investigate what is happening elsewhere, and bring this information back to the committee.

7. Other Business:

- English has been receiving more international applications to their graduate program. It is difficult to compare and analyze their grading systems. Does anyone have recommendations for how to more effectively analyze the international applications? Nursing requires a RN licensure from the U.S., which makes it very difficult for international students to be considered.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Amdahl
Secretary to the Graduate Council
September 25, 2012

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