Graduate Council Minutes
December 5, 2007
(November's rescheduled meeting)
Eagle Room, Davies Center

Members Present: Phillips (Chair), Amdahl, Anderson, Christian, Eckes, Ellis, Havholm, McClintic, Pederson, Pollitz, Scukanec, Shaddock, Solberg, Stadler, Sutton, Wendt
Guests: Aminpour, Brukardt, A. Nelson, Tlusty

The meeting was called to order by Interim Dean Andrew Phillips at 3:04 p.m.

1. We had voted at our last meeting to recommend a decrease in the number of full-time and half-time credits for graduate students. We have since discovered that Graduate Council does not have the authority to make this change. Full-time status is a Board of Regents decision, and at this time they are unlikely to allow us to change full-time status from 9 to 8 credits. In the minds of the Regents, there is a difference between the Doctoral clusters (UW-Madison & UW-Milwaukee) and the University clusters, and currently the Doctoral clusters have full-time status at 8 credits and the University clusters are at 9 credits. We may be able to change the half-time status from 5 to 4 credits. Andy Nelson will continue to investigate our options. However, this idea may be put off for a long time, and our motion that passed on 10/24/07 will not move forward. One snag is that our tuition currently plateaus at 9 credits, so if we decrease our full-time status to 8 credits then the plateau would probably need to change to 8 credits as well, which would result in a tuition loss. There are obvious programming issues, but that is not the hold up at this time.

2. The minutes of October 24, 2007, were approved as written.

3. The proposed changes to the Graduate Council Bylaws were sent by email prior to the meeting. Dean Phillips noted that he has been collecting requests for updates to the bylaws over the past two years, and he also added a few of his own clarifications. Due to time constraints the discussion was short, but Phillips asked members to review the proposed changes and be prepared to continue our discussion at a future meeting. Once a final proposal has been passed by GC then we will bring our proposal to a Graduate Faculty meeting. There were a few comments and questions on the current draft:
   - Do we want to consider adding an additional category for graduate faculty status? We have people in the professional programs that are involved with students in the graduate program on a regular basis, although they are qualified for the position they probably do not have the terminal degree; however, they are clinically trained and they are teaching in the clinical field. Does “temporary” fit these types of people? Should “temp” status only be used for those that don’t meet the qualifications to teach one course or for one semester? Perhaps the three levels of status could be full, associate or limited, and temporary? If we use “limited” then we may need to identify limitations, and who would be responsible for keeping track of these individual limitations?
   - In Article II, Section 1, the phrase “terminal degree” was questioned, so this will need to be investigated.
   - In Articles II and VII, the wording has been changed to reflect that some Program Directors report to the Department Chair, and others report to a college level since they span over multiple departments.
   - The meaning of “with faculty status” was discussed. Some clarification is still needed to determine when instructional academic staff members are eligible for graduate faculty standing.

4. Dean Phillips would like the Graduate Council to discuss strategic planning ideas in Graduate Studies. Phillips mentioned some ideas to spark conversation:
   - Would we be interested in enlarging our existing graduate programs and/or adding additional grad programs? As long as these programs continued to a) grow from our undergraduate strengths, and b) meet regional or state needs. We have demonstrated that we are consistent with the University’s mission by temporarily discontinuing grad programs that do not meet these two areas.
Phillips noted that graduate programs are healthy for any institution because a vibrant graduate program keeps the research and scholarly efforts up for the students and the faculty that participate, it keeps the life of learning up to a certain level, and graduate programs are attractive when recruiting new faculty.

Graduate programs can be delivered in non-traditional formats, and they are good revenue generators. For the most part, the courses are more fixed, so it is easier to plan scheduling within departments.

Perhaps we could come up with some measurements for determining reasonable workload for graduate faculty members. For example, could supervision on a certain number of theses be equivalent to teaching a course?

Ideas for new graduate programs:
- Currently in the works: DNP, MSW, ABA
- Possible new practice doctorates: DBA, DPT, EdD
- Possible new Master’s programs: PSM, MPH, MPD, Prof Development in Human Relations
- Responsible conduct of research (RCR) program – professional ethics and conduct in scholarly work

Additional ideas for new graduate programs from committee members:
- Practical doctorate in Public History
- MA in Writing
- Clinical Nurse Leader
- Certificate in Community College Teaching (15-18 crs.) - supplement to a master’s degree

Ideas for resources:
- Service-based pricing - run programs through CTED
- Partner with other institutions

Dean Phillips offered to put his thoughts together, along with additional ideas that were mentioned today, and send an email attachment for all to review and ponder. Strategic planning will be the main agenda item for our next GC meeting on December 19.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Amdahl
Secretary to the Graduate Council
December 12, 2007

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