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

Members Present: Wick (Chair), Amdahl, Havholm, Hoadley, Jaeger, Pinkney Pastrana, Pollitz, Scukanec, Stadler, Tusing, Vaughan, Yanzick, Zinser

Guests: H. Pearson, V. Samelson

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

1. Announcements:

   - Heather Pearson from Admissions addressed some concerns from previous GC conversations:
     a. Nationally vs. Regionally Accredited Institutions:
        - It had been suggested last spring that since we are now accepting some undergraduate credits from nationally (but not regionally) accredited universities, that we may want to discuss whether we are willing to recognize baccalaureate degrees from nationally accredited institutions for entrance to our graduate programs. Globe is an example of a University that is nationally accredited.
        - In the summer of 2011, the Board of Regents announced that we could no longer deny transfer coursework just because the course was not taken at a regionally accredited institution.
        - In the fall of 2011, Admissions met with the Associate Deans and they agreed to consider courses from Globe. Other UW campuses are accepting GE courses from Globe, so we decided to follow.
        - Admissions will often consult with the department chair before accepting credits from an institution that is not regionally accredited.
        - Graduate Studies will do some investigating to see if other graduate programs in the Midwest are accepting baccalaureate degrees from nationally accredited universities.
     b. Evaluating International Applications for Admission:
        - All international students whose native language is not English must submit an official Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of at least 550 or an International English Language Testing System (IELTS) overall band score of 7.0 for admission.
        - Students with lower TOEFL/IELTS scores may be offered conditional admission, with the expectation that they must enroll and succeed in the Intensive English Program. These students may start their degree AFTER they have achieved an appropriate level of English proficiency.
        - The MBA program will not allow conditional admissions based on this contingency.
        - If you have any questions about evaluating or interpreting an international application for admission, please contact Heather Pearson.
        - If questions regarding the student VISA, please contact the Center for International Education.
        - Nursing has requested to add “Primary Care” to two of their existing graduate program titles. This request has been approved at their college level, and is now published in the UW-Eau Claire Announcements. If there are no objections within 30 days then the request for change will stand as approved. If objections, it will be added to a future GC agenda.
2. The minutes of September 19, 2012 were approved as written.

3. Program Review Materials:

   - On 10/30/12, the Academic Policies Committee (APC) approved a new process for handling academic department/program reviews at the undergraduate level, which changes the process significantly. These materials were shared with the Council.*

   - This new process is designed to align annual reports with program reviews.

   - The new program review questions were designed to be similar to those asked in the PEEQ process. In addition, Institutional Research will annually provide academic departments with a Public Accountability Matrix (PAM) and a Strategic Accountability Matrix (SAM). The data provided in these matrices will assist departments in their annual planning and the program review process.

   - Dean Wick noted that Graduate Council can define what we expect of the program review process, if we wish to make any changes. We already have our own graduate program review questions, which were created by Graduate Dean Andy Phillips. Graduate Council serves as the equivalent at the graduate level that APC serves at the undergraduate level.

   - At the undergraduate level, the departments/programs that are externally-accredited will no longer need to go through the program review process. Since we are the body that would need to approve this change at the graduate level, we could recommend this same policy at the graduate level.

   - A motion was made, and seconded, that graduate programs that are externally-accredited will no longer need to go through the program review process. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Posthumous Degree Guidelines:

   - The draft of the Posthumous Degree Guidelines was shared with the Council.*

   - The draft proposes that a graduate student must be within 75% of degree completion. It was proposed that percentage of completion would probably be determined by the percentage of successfully completed/earned graduate credits toward their degree.

   - Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns, and we will share any comments with the Provost. Overall, the Council appeared to be supportive of the proposed guidelines.

5. Other Business:

   - The Graduate Catalog should be inclusive of all graduate offerings, including CE. Is there any reason why we are not being inclusive? For example, the Director of Special Education Certification and the Library Consortium through UW-Whitewater are not mentioned in the Catalog. We will investigate and bring our findings back to the table.

   - Reminder: The commencement ceremony has changed! The undergraduate and graduate students from each college will now attend the same ceremony.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Amdahl
Secretary to the Graduate Council
December 26, 2012

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