Graduate Council Minutes  
December 14, 2011  
Alumni Room, Davies Center  

**Members Present:** Wick (Chair), Amdahl, Anderson, Barrett, Erffmeyer, Funk, Havholm, Hoadley, Jadack, Jansen, Lewitzke, Macaul, Pederson, Pollitz, Scukanec, Shaddock, Stadler, Sutton

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

1. The minutes of October 19, 2011, were approved as written.

2. Announcements:  
   - Amber Zank, School Psychology program, has won the “Thesis of the Year” award. Congratulations to Amber, and her thesis adviser, Dr. Michael Axelrod. Amber has been invited to present her thesis to the campus community on Thursday, May 3, at 3:30pm in CETL. Dean Wick thanked those who were involved in submitting nominations, and those who read and judged the four theses that were nominated.

3. Status of Graduate Dean Position:  
   - Due to budget constraints, the search for a full-time Graduate Dean position has been postponed. The concept of having a full-time Graduate Dean has not been cancelled, just the funding.

4. Discussion on Future of Graduate Programs:  
   - Dean Wick announced that he added this topic to the agenda in hopes of having an open discussion that would provide him with ideas to share with the Provost and the Chancellor.
   - Clarified some comments that were made at the All Academic Affairs meeting about graduate programs.
   - What does the reference of “reinvest in core academic mission” mean? This sounds as though revenue would go back to undergraduate education. It was expressed that if we have graduate programs that can financially give back, those funds should be used toward graduate education, not just the undergraduate programs. Our graduate programs and students need more support on this campus.
   - The presence of graduate students on our campus is critical to our undergraduate students and programs.
   - What is considered “income generating” and how is this calculated? One of the program directors mentioned that she teaches a 3-credit graduate course each semester and she is not paid for it.
   - Dean Wick noted that when you look at what graduate students pay in tuition and the SCH, many of the graduate programs are losing money. However, at the undergraduate level, almost every program is positive. If we don’t count overhead, much of the graduate coursework would just break-even.
   - How are double-numbered courses calculated in SCH since many of our graduate courses are double-numbered?
   - Stats from Admissions: Overall, UWEC enrolls about 95% undergraduates and 5% graduates. Our undergraduate percentage is one of the highest in the UW System. We have received approximately 1000 fewer new freshman applications in the past two years.
   - Could the undergraduate/graduate ratio be looked at program-by-program rather than holistically?
   - It hurts us that our graduate students are not allowed to be TA’s, since GA’s are not faculty.
   - Has there been any discussion on regional needs? What about the Wisconsin Idea—regional needs/access for people? Many of our graduate students are root-bound, but isn’t that what Wisconsin wants (more people with master’s degrees)? We will abandon people that are within 2 hours away—many of them do not have access to UW-Madison or Minneapolis. Continuing Education did a report on regional needs a few years ago. Dean Wick will obtain a copy of this report and share with members of the Graduate Council.
   - Should we consider raising graduate tuition? A Program Director mentioned that students are already going elsewhere since our tuition is too high.
   - To attract students, we first need to address some basic concerns of our graduate and non-traditional students, such as parking, and the capability of paying the $100 registration deposit by credit card.
   - Does approval for new programs still go to System? Yes, but there is some support for letting campuses decide.
   - Dean Wick announced that we have received permission to give revenue back to the colleges from our Winterim and Summer Session enrollments.
   - What will the review of graduate programs process look like? We have not heard of any formal process yet.
   - When referring to “small programs,” are they referring to small enrollments or enrollments not covered by cost? Some noted that it doesn’t cost much to run their graduate programs since they are already teaching the courses
at the undergraduate level (as double-numbered courses), and they teach some of the graduate courses on their backs (no compensation).

- Dean Wick is not aware of any timeline for these program reviews and/or cuts to take place.
- Have we considered a professional master’s degree in the humanities and sciences? The sciences were approached about a Professional Science Master (PSM) degree a few years ago, but there was great concern about faculty workload since focus in on undergraduates on this campus.
- UW-Extension has funding to support consortium programs, but then we share in the revenue. The MBA program dropped their UWEX support a few years ago. It is more beneficial for us to self-fund our programs than to work with UWEX, but their resources are helpful (example: BPS degree).
- E-campus is a portal for information about online programs available through UW System.
- It was requested, “Please move slowly and thoughtfully when making decisions to our graduate programs. We don’t want to rush into any decisions.”
- Dean Wick encouraged members to send any additional thoughts or concerns to him via email.

The meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Amdahl
Secretary to the Graduate Council
January 5, 2012

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