Graduate Council Minutes  
January 28, 2009  
Alumni Room, Davies Center

Graduate Council Members Present: Phillips (Chair), Amdahl, Christian, Dempsey, Erffmeyer, Havholm, Jadack, Kirkhorn, Kroeninger, Mann, Miller, Minderman, Peterson, Pollitz, Quinn, Scukanec, Shaddock, Zwygart-Stauffacher  
Guests: J. Aminpour

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

2. The minutes of December 17, 2008, were approved as written.

3. Dean Phillips invited Interim Dean Zwygart-Stauffacher and Dr. Jadack from the CONHS to update the Council on the status of the DNP Authorization to Implement*.
   - This will be the first practice doctorate program offered at UW-Eau Claire.
   - The Authorization to Implement will be reviewed at the Regent’s Meeting in May, 2009.
   - The American Association of Colleges in Nursing (AACN) recommends that by the year 2015 that doctorate level educational preparation will be required at the entry level of practice for advanced practice nurses (APNs).
   - This will be a collaborative program with UW-Oshkosh, although each campus will graduate its own students – this is, each campus will have degree granting authority independent of the other. The first two years will be completed at the student’s home university and will be the equivalent to the current full-time MSN program, but the third year will be delivered collaboratively between the UW-Eau Claire and UW-Oshkosh campuses.
   - This third year of collaborative coursework is being referred to as the “bridge,” because the student will be moving from the standard MSN program coursework toward the completion of the DNP degree.
   - We will continue to offer the MSN program at UW-Eau Claire for those students who are pursuing existing nursing tracks that do not require the DNP (such as the Nurse Educator track).
   - We intend to initiate the DNP program in the Summer of 2010.
   - Costs will be $250 more per credit in the third year.
Graduate Council is the final level of approval for graduate programming on our campus. A motion was made and seconded to support the DNP Authorization to Implement. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Dean Phillips had LTS conduct a Customer Satisfaction Survey of the Office of Graduate Studies (OGS), and he distributed the results at the meeting. Results from the survey will be used in the PEEQ report for the OGS. A total of twenty-one Graduate Program Directors/Coordinators and College Deans were sent the survey, and 14 responses (67%) were received.
   - Overall, the survey results were positive and respondents appear to be pleased with the current set-up of the OGS, the services offered, and the helpfulness of the office staff.
   - 100% of respondents said that they use the services of the OGS at least once per month; 43% use their services at least once per week.
   - Centralization of the graduate programming has been beneficial. One person commented, “If the ‘main/central’ office of Graduate Studies were to go away…we might as well say ‘good bye’ to graduate studies at UW-Eau Claire.” Other comments echoed the same opinion. However, one person commented that “very little” would change if the OGS would be eliminated, since he/she feels that most of the functions of the office are duplicated at the program/college level.
- When asked how the OGS could be improved, faculty would like more support with marketing and advertising, and to be able to “seek ways to attract funds and scholarships to attract more graduate students and expand graduate programs.”

Additional comments suggested at the GC meeting:
- A few members expressed their pleasure in the friendliness of the office staff, and appreciation that students feel comfortable asking questions and visiting the office.
- The MBA Program Director would like to see more of a connection in the websites and recruitment between the MBA, Graduate Studies, and Office of Admissions.
- Graduate Program Directors expressed an interest in offering a time for non-traditional students to attend a Graduate School Fair that would showcase the UWEC graduate programs. Local schools and hospitals would be invited, and we would notify the Chamber of Commerce.
- A college dean questioned whether graduate paperwork needs to be processed at the college dean level; if not, then additional efficiencies would be possible.

5. Dean Phillips encouraged members to read and suggest any feedback on the Graduate Studies PEEQ report*. Dean Phillips pointed out some deficiencies in our enrollment numbers - 91% of our graduate students are from Wisconsin or Minnesota, and there are only five international students currently enrolled.

6. John Pollitz, the Director of Libraries, resurfaced the idea of submitting our theses electronically and archiving them with Minds@UW. This subject was briefly discussed at the last GC meeting, but a few of the programs were not present.
- Theses will be much more accessible if submitted electronically. They would be available on Google.
- Electronic submission and archiving is a trend that other campuses are doing.
- The theses would be date stamped.
- We can password protect by an individual thesis or by an entire program, but it is preferred that we do not protect. We could probably restrict the access to on-campus viewers only. John recommends that we decide as a group how to determine which papers, if any, will be protected. There is currently no charge for using Minds@UW or for password protection.
- A nice feature of electronic submissions is that students can add more recordings, videos, and other types of media to their paper.
- The most difficult part of electronic submission will probably be to merge the signed approval pages into the student’s paper, so we will need to carefully document these instructions in the thesis manual.

7. Dean Phillips mentioned that he would like to discuss ideas for measuring graduate faculty workload at our next GC meeting. The feedback from our graduate faculty is that we need to consider the current workload of the graduate faculty before we grow our existing graduate programs or create new graduate programs.

The meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Amdahl
Secretary to the Graduate Council
February 17, 2009

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