Graduate Council Minutes  
April 23, 2008  
McIntyre Library, Room 2022 (2nd floor breezeway)

Guests: M.J. Brukardt, T. Stephens, L. St. Aubin-Whelihan

1. The meeting was called to order by Interim Dean Andrew Phillips at 3:05 p.m.

2. Dean Phillips and M.J. Brukardt explained that we would be prioritizing the strategic planning ideas mentioned at our previous Graduate Council meeting, which were divided into three broad areas and printed on large posters:
   - challenges
   - new graduate initiatives
   - infrastructure ideas

3. Members were asked for any additional ideas, category by category. See attached handout (items in blue were added from suggestions at this meeting). After reviewing the ideas from each category, members and guests were asked to use three sticky dots and place them on their three top priorities.

   Top Challenges:
   1) Lack of personnel/faculty to support graduate programs.
   2) Lack of enrollment plan that guides our future.
   3) Limited number of on-line and evening classes.
   4) Maintain quality of graduate programming (faculty/student ratio).

   Comments about Challenge #1: We need to create workload measures for graduate programs (theses advising, clinical supervision, research advising, etc.). Most graduate work with students is on an overload basis. Get creative with incentives for workload. Work/life balance.

   Top New Initiatives:
   1) Increase enrollments in existing high demand programs.
   2) Masters in Social Work
   3a) Consider tribal programs
   3b) Develop additional graduate programs in English.
   5) Develop variations on the existing MEPD program.
   6) Develop a Masters in Education and/or Licensure for Principals

   Overall comments: We need to think about our timeline – perhaps different timing for different ideas. One size does not fit all – we may need to differentiate research vs. professional programs. Perhaps have a future discussion on Plan A vs. Plan B options and the various approaches we are taking even now in our graduate programs. We do not expect all graduate programs to “make us money”, but we do need to find ways to support our programs, and that means that some programs will need to generate sufficient revenues (to support themselves and perhaps others, too). Some programs may have enrollment limitations, like CSD. The tribal programs would increase diversity. Minnesota and Michigan do not have Tribal Preservation programs, and we are in the middle of several different tribes.
Top Infrastructure Ideas:
1) Develop additional financial support options for graduate students (higher GA salaries, monies for doing and presenting research work, financial aid assistance, etc.).
2) Create more student-friendly “services” for non-traditional students.
3) Develop an orientation program for new (and possibly returning) graduate students.

4. Overall:
   • maintain quality
   • lack of enrollment plan
   • financial support

5. Assignments for Graduate Council for the next meeting(s):
   • Discuss and distinguish between professional and research programs – discuss different models.
   • Define “high demand” – which current programs might be reasonably looked to for growth
   • Work w/AA on academic plan - identify key points for input that support graduate programs
   • Explore/expand initiatives

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Amdahl
Secretary to the Graduate Council
April 30, 2008

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