Graduate Council Minutes  
October 24, 2007  
Eagle Room, Davies Center


Guests: Anita Eggleston, Jodi Simek, Kathy Sahlhoff

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

1. Dean Phillips announced that Dr. Mickey Crothers would be joining our meeting at 3:55pm to ask the same questions that were asked last year regarding the graduate programming on this campus for the Higher Learning Commission since there were some concerns in the last HLC accreditation report about the decentralization of our graduate school.

2. The minutes of September 26, 2007, were approved as written.

3. Dean Phillips distributed a handout with the enrollment of graduate students by program (as of 10/6/07)*. Currently, there are 393 part-time and 104 full-time students, for a total of 497, with a breakdown of 171 males and 326 females, which he stated is consistent with the past few years.

4. The MBA program requested to have Graduate Council evaluate the credit load of half-time and full-time status for graduate students. Representatives from Financial Aid, International Education, and the Registrar’s Office were all present. Financial Aid reminded everyone that “half-time” credit load is the most critical to their office since students must be at least half-time to be eligible for financial assistance. It was suggested that it would be beneficial to perspective students if we decrease the credit loads, especially if we are interested in growing our graduate programs. A motion was made and seconded to decrease the credit loads for the academic semesters (fall/spring) from 9 to 8 credits for full-time and 5 to 4 credits for half-time, and summer session from 7 to 6 credits for full-time and 4 to 3 credits for half-time. Dean Phillips will request this change to be implemented as soon as possible, noting that we need to be mindful of the heavy commitment of resources currently assigned to the PeopleSoft conversion. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. Dean Phillips expressed his appreciation in having graduate student representatives from each college on the Council, and thanked Nichole Ray, Jennifer McClintic, Erin Ellis, and Cynthia Eckes for volunteering.

6. The conversation on Graduate Faculty status was continued from our last meeting. It was suggested that it might make sense to have different expectations for different disciplines, such as the instructors in CSD and Nursing who have clinical practice degrees with “x” years of experience. *Dean Phillips distributed a list of courses from the 2007 Fall Semester that recently appeared on a report of “instructors not approved for grad credit.” Some thought that it would be appropriate if Instructional Academic Staff (IAS) members with a terminal degree could apply for “temp” grad faculty status, if interested. Dean Phillips will draft some proposed updates to the GC Bylaws for our next meeting.

7. A motion was passed to approve a motion that has already been passed by Senate, which was, “Create NRS prefix, eliminate ADTN, FMHN, NSYS prefixes, and change prefixes of all undergraduate and graduate ADTN, FMHN, NSYS, and double-numbered nursing courses and records of Registrar’s Office to NRS.”

8. Dr. Crothers arrived to ask the questions for the HLC accreditation report (as mentioned earlier). The meeting adjourned at 3:58 pm, although members were asked to stay for questioning. Dean Phillips and Nancy Amdahl of Graduate Studies left the room so folks could respond in anonymity.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Amdahl
Secretary to the Graduate Council
October 31, 2007

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