Graduate Council Minutes  
December 19, 2007  
Eagle Room, Davies Center

Guests: Aminpour, Lindsey, St. Aubin-Whelihan

The meeting was called to order by Interim Dean Andrew Phillips at 3:04 p.m.
1. The minutes of December 5, 2007, were approved as written.
2. Dean Phillips made the announcement that Molly Barnes Nowlan, an August 2007 graduate from the MA-English program, has received the “2008 Thesis of the Year” award. He also recommended Molly’s thesis to MAGS for their Distinguished Thesis of the Year. Molly will be presenting her thesis on Wednesday, April 30th from 1:00-2:00pm in the 2nd floor breezeway of the library.
3. The next GC meeting will be held on January 23 and we will go back to the standard meeting time of 3:00-4:30pm (1.5 hour) next semester.
4. DNP Update: The entitlement for the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) was sent to UW-System. After months of discussion with UW-System, we have come to the agreement that UW-Eau Claire and UW-Oshkosh will provide a joint entitlement that will permit each campus to award its own DNP degree but in a collaborative model that would allow us to share resources. The only real difference between the original proposal and the model now being proposed is that the sharing of resources is built into the new proposal. Committee members did not feel that it was necessary to reapprove the entitlement proposal since the revised plan is still in the same spirit as the original proposal, noting that the authorization to implement will still come through GC. The “sharing of resources” would primarily be utilized by allowing students to attend different universities for different program areas since we will not be able to provide all areas of specialty. The program does not intentionally plan to share faculty. However, since the program will comprise approximately 70 credits, the CONHS may be requesting that more than nine transfer credits be allowed to count toward the program. Once the Board of Regents makes the final approval for the DNP, then Dean Phillips will contact the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) for a “change request” to permit the granting of this degree.
5. Strategic Planning: Dean Phillips distributed a handout of strategic planning ideas. Topics discussed:
   - What would it take to include financial support for graduate student research? Could we look into graduate student differential tuition, or is there another way?
   - What was the reasoning for the decrease in graduate student head count from 1000 to 500? Although not entirely sure, some ideas for the decrease in graduate enrollments may be correlated to an increase in competition, and individual programs may have chosen to cut down on the students they accept each year. Dean Phillips credited the MBA program for ramping up our enrollment numbers.
   - Dean Phillips noted that a recent survey showed that students would prefer to attend UW-Eau Claire for their graduate education IF we offered a degree of interest to them.
   - The MS-CSD Program Director mentioned the idea of growing enrollments to her faculty and she said they were optimistic. In fact, they wouldn’t need to worry about recruitment or quality since they already receive more qualified applicants than they can accept each year. In 2007/08 they had approximately 100 applications; they accepted only 16 students and turned down at least 30 more that qualified. However, due to the clinical preparation and supervision necessary for each student, their program would have space and faculty issues if they were to expand their graduate enrollments.
   - One of our students mentioned the idea of recruiting more Indian and minority students into our graduate programs. Due to their own cultural blocks, some students may not realize that they are capable of attending graduate school. Could the Office of Multicultural Affairs get involved by...
encouraging our students at the U/G level to consider graduate school? According to the student, we could probably advertise for free in the Tribal newsletters.

- We need to think as entrepreneurs with ideas such as full-cost recovery models or working through Continuing Education, where some revenue is returned to the college. For example, would it be beneficial for some program to decrease enrollments in their U/G program so they could increase numbers in their graduate program? Using DINs is another idea – Ex. The state approached the Dept of Psychology regarding an Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) grad program and when the department said they were interested but didn’t have the resources, the state and the UW System offered to help make it possible through a DIN proposal.

- UWEC brings in the 3rd largest freshmen class in the UW-System—is this something our campus should evaluate? As far as graduate program recruitment, the Admissions Office suggested that electronic recruitment is popular these days, so make sure your department websites are inviting and up-to-date.

- The MBA and MSN programs suggested that we move our current graduate school fair toward the later afternoon or early evening, or host a separate event in the evening. Continuing Education expressed an interest in helping with an evening fair. Dean Phillips reminded folks that the Golden Key student organization is responsible for the fair, not Graduate Studies, so perhaps a second fair in the evening would be more appropriate than attempting to move the existing one.

- The Chippewa Valley is primarily based on the health care and business industry. Perhaps we should consider graduate programs in:
  - Physical or Occupational Therapy
  - Master of Arts in (Public) Administration
  - Cohort for technical school instructors to complete a master’s degree in community college or technical college teaching
  - Gerontology
  - Non-Profit Leadership certificate

- Dean Phillips would like to create more of a graduate school community for our students. Possible ideas for this new environment:
  - Orientation session for new students
  - Monthly presentations of interest to all graduate students
  - Create Graduate Council subgroups to work on projects/ideas
  - Create mechanism for notifying grad students about on-campus services
  - Create a Graduate Student Organization

The meeting adjourned at 4:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Amdahl
Secretary to the Graduate Council
January 16, 2008

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