Minutes of Graduate Council Meeting

The Graduate Council met on Thursday, January 28, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. in RSC 006.


I. Approve Minutes of December 3, 2009 meeting
Minutes of the December 3, 2009 meeting were approved as distributed.

II. New Business
a. Review KBOR Reports
Associate Dean Masud provided summaries of the KBOR departmental reports on Criminal Justice, Gerontology, and Anthropology programs for Council review. Members reviewed the KBOR reports and discussed what changes should be made to the summaries before they are forwarded onto the Provost’s office.

b. Update on Plagiarism Review
Dean McDonald indicated that nearly all cases of plagiarism, identified within the College of Engineering, have been/are being dealt with by the faculty and students involved. He is confident that remediation of all cases will be addressed, and should reach completion in the upcoming weeks. In reference to reviewing the other five colleges at WSU for possible plagiarism issues, the Dean announced that a review of thesis/dissertations submitted within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has been conducted, and it appears that only a couple of submissions need further review.

Dean McDonald intends for defense committees to utilize SafeAssign or some other tool when reviewing student’s thesis/dissertations to help with determining if there are any questionable areas in their submissions. In the future, defense committee members will indicate that SafeAssign has been completed by marking a box on the defense approval form before sending it to the Graduate School. Moving forward, the Dean encourages faculty to address plagiarism when they begin teaching and mentoring their students. As faculty work with their students to ensure they have the necessary writing skills to paraphrase and cite work appropriately, the Dean hopes these pitfalls will be avoided in the future. The Graduate School will check on possible resources available to help faculty and students along in this process (i.e. websites, orientations, library tutorials, etc.), and will send information out to departments.

c. Drop GSA Category from Assistantship Types
Associate Dean Masud asked Council members to discuss whether or not to keep the Graduate Student Assistantship (GSA) category type along with the Graduate Research (GRA) and Graduate Teaching (GTA) categories. WSU is currently the only Kansas Regent institution with a GSA type, and as of fall 2009, GSA’s are no longer eligible for health insurance. The Council decided not to drop GSA category now.

III. As May Arise
• With the new +/- grading system, Dr. Hersch asked to confirm that a C- grade cannot be used on a plan of study. Grades lower than a C, including C-, cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.
• As Creative Writing students only have the option of doing a project for their terminal activity, Dr. Dawe, asked if the Graduate School would consider expanding criteria for award/scholarship nominations that would allow MFA students to qualify to apply. The Graduate School Award deadline is this coming Monday, February 1st.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.