Minutes of Graduate Council Meeting

The Graduate Council met on Thursday, October 1, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. in RSC 207.

MEMBERS PRESENT:  Dean D. McDonald, Associate Dean A. Masud, Assistant Dean M. Alagic, C. Claycomb, S. Coats, K. Coufal, M. Dawe, S. Farmer, T. Hill, K. Rokhsaz, B. Yildirim, and student representative D. Pope.

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

II. New Business
a. Review/Revision of Graduate Faculty Categories/Qualifications
Associate Dean Masud provided Council members with the current list of Graduate Faculty Membership Categories, and asked members to review and discuss categories involving membership for non-WSU individuals. Members agreed that expanding the qualifications for outside researchers/scholars whose institutions have similar rigorous criteria, could allow for co-chairing status, and membership that is in line with possible research funding opportunities. Council will review draft revisions of the membership categories at their next Council meeting in November.

b. Role/Selection of Outside Member in Thesis/Dissertation Committees
Council members discussed the role/selection of the outside member on thesis/dissertation committees to ascertain if outside members fully understand their role of representing the Graduate School on committees. Members discussed how some other Regent institutions require the outside member to “chair” the thesis/dissertation defense hearing. Council agreed the outside member role should be as defense chair, and that it would be beneficial to create a document to be given to all outside members describing the role of their position on the committee. Also, as paperwork is put forward to the Graduate School to approve members of a committee, that each outside member be contacted to assure they understand the position held.

c. Transfer Thesis Hours
Associate Dean Masud asked Council members to address whether or not to allow students to transfer thesis hours from another accredited university to be used in a master’s or doctoral program here at WSU. Council discussed and determined that the following policy (pg. 26 of the current Graduate Catalog) was sufficient to cover issues regarding transfer of credit from other universities:

“Master's and Specialist degree programs requiring fewer than 40 hours may include no more than one-third of the total hours or 12 hours, whichever is greater, of graduate work completed at another accredited graduate school (exclusive of hours in a previous master's degree). Departments may require lower limits on transfer credit and therefore students should consult with the individual program. Doctoral programs may include a maximum of one-third of the course work hours, exclusive of acceptable hours in a master's degree”.

III. As May Arise
a. Council members asked if training is offered for SafeAssign (used to detect plagiarism in student work). Associate Dean Masud indicated training is offered through the MRC, and will locate and distribute the training information to Council members.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.