Minutes of Graduate Council Meeting

The Graduate Council met on Thursday, October 5, 2006 at 2:30 p.m. in Devlin Hall 2nd floor conference room.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dean S. Kovar, Associate Dean D. Eichhorn, R. Calabrese, C. Claycomb, S. Coats, K. Miller, J. Pelkowski, M. Schommer-Aikins, E. Steinke, D. Wright and student representative I. Alwis.

I. Visit with Vice President Miller

Vice President Gary Miller visited with Council about initiatives the University plans to address in the upcoming months. He noted five key issues that have been designated for further review: funding research, funding graduate students, reviewing program mix, establishing a south side campus, and computer security and structure. He also announced there will be some reorganization with regard to how colleges relay budget information within Academic Affairs. Colleges previously worked directly with Budget Director Mary Herrin on their budgets, but will now do so with Vice President Miller. Dianne Coleman in his office will then relay information to Mary Herrin's office.

II. Approve Minutes of September 21, 2006 meeting

Minutes of the September 21, 2006 meeting were approved with a minor correction.

III. Old Business

a. Council members agreed that further definition of the terms Thesis, Dissertation and Project should be added to the Graduate Catalog under the Graduate Study Defined section (page 7). The additions are as follows:

Terminal projects associated with the completion of the master’s degree provide evidence of understanding the discipline-specific inquiry methods, thinking critically about a problem, and producing a written document or creative works appropriate to standards of the discipline.

The thesis is considered a scholarly contribution to knowledge evidencing research or creative capacity, independent thought, and the ability to interpret materials. In some cases it involves original research or development of original works such as a painting or a manuscript in creative writing.

Comprehensive knowledge in the field is assessed through the qualifying exam. On passing the qualifying exam, students become a “Candidate for the Degree” and must be continuously enrolled every semester for a minimum of two credit hours of dissertation research.

The dissertation is considered a substantial contribution to knowledge in which the student exhibits original scholarship and the ability to conduct independent research or creative works.

Associate Dean Eichhorn suggested a couple of editorial changes be made to the Committee Structure section of the catalog so that language is consistent throughout the section (page 19). All of the revisions will be submitted for inclusion in the 2007-2008 catalog.

b. Council voted and unanimously approved the Accelerated/Concurrent Bachelor’s to Master’s Program Proposal.

c. Dean Kovar announced that Dr. Krishna Krishnan has agreed to represent Graduate School as marshal at the December commencement ceremony.
d. Dean Kovar noted that Linda Bakken and Ruth Hitchcock will be at the next Council meeting to address questions Council previously brought forth about the Graduate Certificate in Child/Play Therapy.

IV. New Business

a. Dean Kovar suggested assessing a Graduate Certificate program at the same time Board of Regent reviews are conducted on full programs within the same discipline. At this point there is no specific time that certificate programs are assessed, and she would like to look further into the effectiveness of the current graduate certificate programs.

b. Dean Kovar requested that Council members ask their constituents if there is interest in discussing alternative formats for thesis and dissertations within the colleges for the item to be brought back for discussion at a future meeting.

V. As May Arise

No items were brought forth.

Meeting adjourned 4:00 p.m.