Minutes of Graduate Council Meeting

The Graduate Council met on Thursday, November 19, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. in RSC 223.

MEMBERS PRESENT:  Dean D. McDonald, Associate Dean A. Masud, Assistant Dean M. Alagic, E. Behrman, S. Coats, S. Farmer, T. Hill, K. Rokhsaz, B. Yildirim, J. Patterson for K. McDowell, G. Dehner for M. Dawe, B. Vanderburgh, CTRE, and student representative D. Pope.

I.  Old Business

a. Discussion of concerns regarding policy changes to outside member role and plagiarism check of thesis/dissertation.

Dean McDonald welcomed and opened up the meeting for guest faculty in attendance to voice their concerns and questions about the recent email regarding the role of outside members during oral defense hearings; and required plagiarism check of thesis/dissertations. Following discussions with guest faculty, the meeting was closed to outside guests and Council continued discussing the matter. Members determined there is a need for further deliberation, and communication with graduate faculty on both issues, before policy changes are put into place. Council took the following two actions:

1. Council motioned and unanimously approved to reinstate the oral defense policy regarding the outside member as stated in the 2009-2010 Graduate Catalog, and agreed to bring the issue back for further discussion at Council until a different resolution can be put forward for vote at a later time. Final resolution is to affirm the role of the outside member.

2. Council motioned and unanimously approved to table and reexamine the issue of plagiarism and the requirement of using SafeAssign on all theses/dissertations, until a draft policy document is developed and can be reviewed with Council and presented to the Graduate Faculty for their input. Final intent is to address protection of the University with regard to issues of plagiarism.

As a strategy for going forward, we will distribute to the Graduate Faculty explanatory documents in each case to explain our rationale. This information will be provided in advance of future votes to facilitate the involvement of the Graduate Faculty in each decision.

b. Should assistantships be given to conditionally admitted students?

Council began discussion of whether or not to allow conditionally accepted students to hold graduate assistantship positions. After further review of page 11 of the Graduate Catalog, it was determined the current policy should remain in place, allowing for conditional admitted students to be considered for GA positions. As well, it was noted that students admitted with conditions, admitted on probation, or placed on probation after admission are not eligible for federally funded financial aid.

II.  As May Arise

a. No items were brought forth.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.