Minutes of Graduate Council Meeting

The Graduate Council met on Thursday, February 16, 2006 at 2:30 p.m. in Devlin Hall 2nd floor conference room.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dean S. Kovar, Associate Dean D. Eichhorn, M. Alagic, S. Farmer, K. Miller, K. Rokhsaz, M. Schommer-Aikins, D. Wright and student representative R. Prezas.

I. Approve Minutes of December 1, 2005 meeting
Minutes of the December 1, 2005 meeting were approved as distributed.

II. Announcements/Updates
- Dean Kovar distributed the 2005 Research and Graduate Studies brochure and asked Council members to notify her if they would like additional copies.
- Dean Kovar mentioned she will soon be sending requests for nominations from the Humanities area, as Deborah Soles has resigned from Council for the remainder of the current term.
- Dean Kovar noted her appreciation to those Council members who attended the interview sessions for the VPAAR position. She reminded those who attended to turn in their candidate evaluation sheets.
- Dean Kovar reported that the implementation of the new internet TOEFL is not going as well as expected, as some students are finding it difficult to locate a site with available space to take the test. Council discussed how we might use the speaking portion of the internet TOEFL in place of the current instrument (TSE) we use to test the spoken English capabilities of prospective GTAs. Question arose as to whether or not WSU still does the paper-based TOEFL. Dean Kovar will check into this.

III. Continued Item - Dual Authorship on Theses and Dissertations
Council members confirmed that at this time dual-authored theses and dissertations are NOT acceptable and would NOT meet graduation requirements. Further discussions will occur at future Council meetings as to WSU’s definition of the following final program experiences: thesis, project and dissertation.

IV. Continued Item - Goal Statements (for Graduate School)
Dean Kovar distributed her summary of the sub-goals and actions which Council members identified at the December 1, 2005 Council meeting. She asked members to review and email her with anything they note is missing in the summary. The Dean indicated her plans to fit the Goal Statements into the matrix which should be updated by the end of summer.

V. New Directions for ProQuest
Dean Kovar announced that students are doing well with the electronic theses and dissertations process through ProQuest, and noted that by fall 2006 all theses and dissertations will be required to be filed electronically. Currently, theses and dissertations are available on an electronic database through the library, and the library can access those from other institutions (the Library pays a fee for faculty to do this). ProQuest would like to change the process of distributing theses and dissertations to what they call “open access” which would allow free downloading access of each thesis or dissertation (abstract and full text). The cost for this “open access” is paid for by the institution so WSU would have to pay an additional $95.00 to ProQuest for each thesis and dissertation we publish through them. Council members voted to NOT implement “open access” at this time.
VI. HLC Visit Preparation
Dean Kovar reminded Council members that the HLC visit is scheduled for the spring of 2007. Thus, the Council will prepare for this visit during the fall 2006 semester.

VII. As May Arise
Dean Kovar noted several items:
- There will be no Council meeting on March 2nd since she will not be in the office that week.
- Council will be reviewing two curriculum items later this semester:
  1. Accelerated master/bachelors in Industrial Engineering.
  2. Doctor of Nursing Practice.
  3. Transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy
- The Graduate School is currently conducting interviews for the GS Student Recruitment Officer position.

Adjourned 3:30 p.m.