The Graduate Council met on Thursday, February 21, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. in Devlin Hall 2nd floor conference room.


I. Approve Minutes of February 7, 2008 meeting
Minutes of the February 7, 2008 meeting were approved as distributed.

II. Old Business
a. Council members continued discussion on the proposed Plus-Minus Grading System that is being discussed by the Senate. Council members motioned and agreed to support the proposal with the recommendation that the Survey on Plus-Minus Grading be distributed to all faculty groups before a final decision is made.

b. Council members approved changes made to the Role Statement for Thesis/dissertation Committees document via email. The item will be published in the 2009-2010 Graduate Catalog.

c. Council members agreed that a decision on whether or not to grade thesis/dissertation hours each semester will need to be made before making a final decision on the Graduate Catalog regulation on assigning incomplete grades. Both items will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

III. New Business
a. Curriculum
   - Accelerated BS/MS Program in Economics. Philip Hersch joined Council to present the program and answer questions from Council. Council discussed the program and will request revisions to clarify the proposal. An updated copy of the proposal will be requested before the final vote on the proposal takes place at an upcoming Council meeting. A general question was raised as to how these programs should be advertised – should they be listed in the UG and/or graduate bulletins?
   
   - Accelerated BS/MS Program in Mechanical Engineering. Behnam Bahr joined Council to present the program and answer questions from Council. He also provided handouts listing the current ME curriculum, and the changes to curriculum beginning with the Fall 2008 semester. Council discussed the program and agreed that the Dual/Accelerated guideline for the level of joint-degree hours taken for graduate credit needs to be clarified before completing their review of the proposal. It was agreed that the idea was to allow dual credit only for courses which are generally meant as graduate courses, but there was discussion of whether dual credit could be allowed for 600-level courses that are intended for graduate students. Council discussed revisions needed to the proposal and will request the changes before final vote on the proposal takes place.

b. Associate Dean Eichhorn provided the survey results for the Oral Defense Evaluation.

IV. As May Arise
Associate Dean Eichhorn provided a flyer for the Directors Regional Meeting on Aging Research (sponsored by WSU’s National Institute on Aging). The meeting is being held in Wichita which provides an opportunity for faculty and students who are interested to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.