Graduate Council Minutes

The Graduate Council met on February 3, 2005 in the Devlin Hall second floor conference room at 2:30 p.m.

Members present:  S. Kovar (Dean), P. Kahol (Associate Dean), S. Coats, L. Hale, R. Hull, P. Rillema, N. Van Dyke (student representative), J. Wolff, D. Wright

I.  Approval of Minutes from December 2, 2004 Meeting
   ▪ Minutes were approved as distributed.

II. Old Business
   ▪ Graduate Faculty Categories—Dean Kovar reviewed the suggestions from the December 2, 2004 meeting minutes. The Graduate Council members recommended more consistent language within each definition. Dean Kovar will add the recommended changes and distribute this at the February 17, 2005 meeting.
   ▪ Dean Kovar and the Graduate Council discussed the number of full members that would be included when organizing the thesis committee. The thesis committee must have at least one full member and the dissertation committee must have four full members. Dean Kovar will consider how to include terminal performances and exhibits for students in the Fine Arts. Dean Kovar will find out how the performance or exhibitions are coded and bring that back to the Graduate Council.
   ▪ Raising Minimum Stipend Levels—Dr. Wright reviewed data regarding the stipend levels. Dean Kovar will be making a presentation to the Foundation in March. Please give her any thoughts you may have for her to consider for this presentation. A motion was made for the Graduate School to work towards the goal of increasing stipend support by 26% to bring WSU stipend levels within 2 standard deviations of the national average. An increase of that magnitude would raise the minimum full-time teaching assistantship stipend from $7000 to $9500. Motion was carried.

III. New Business
   ▪ New TOEFL Test—Dean Kovar discussed the new TOEFL test. Beginning in September of 2005, the internet-based test will replace all other versions of the test. The new test version includes a speaking section. A total score as well as individual scores for the four subtests (listening, speaking, writing and reading) will be reported. ETS encourages departments to use the subtests, not just the overall score in setting minimum TOEFL requirements for their programs. Each test is scored from 0-30 points, so the total score maximum is 120. The Graduate School has set a total score of 79 as the minimum TOEFL requirement. Some programs on campus have established higher requirements for the total score (88-100). Graduate Council members indicated that they would be interested in seeing the individual subtest scores of students who are in their departments. Dean Kovar also indicated that she attended a meeting regarding TOEFL scores at the Council of Graduate Schools meeting in December. She will bring some data to the next meeting on the speaking section of the TOEFL vs. the TSE exam. Detailed information on the new test can be found on the ETS web site (www.ets.org/toefl/nextgen/scorereport.html).
   ▪ Graduate School Mission, Vision, and Values—Dean Kovar brought the Mission, Vision, and Values statement to the Graduate Council from the Strategic Planning Committee. There was a short discussion and some concerns were brought forward. Dean Kovar agreed that the Graduate Council will come back to this discussion.

Adjourned at 4:10 p.m.