Minutes of Graduate Council Meeting

The Graduate Council met on Thursday, February 7, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. in Devlin Hall 2nd floor conference room.


Dean Kovar welcomed Council members to the spring semester, and thanked them for attending the special Council meeting regarding a student grievance in January. An updated list of the 2007-08 members was also distributed which reflected that the Council representative for the CESP and KSS departments was now the representative for the departments of CESP, HPS and Sport Management.

I. Approve Minutes of December 6, 2007 meeting
Minutes of the December 6, 2007 meeting were approved as distributed.

II. New Business
   a. Dr. Fuchang Liu (faculty member in Curriculum and Instruction) joined Council to talk about items covered as he served on the University Library Committee. This is Dr. Liu’s third and final term serving as the Council representative on the committee. He will continue to inform Council of pertinent issues on graduate education that come forth in the remaining semester.
   b. Faculty Senate President, Dr. Sylvia Carruthers, joined Council members to present the proposed Plus/Minus Grading System that is being discussed by the Senate. Council members will discuss the proposal with their various faculty groups and share that information at the next Council meeting on February 21 when the topic will again be discussed. The Faculty Senate wishes the Graduate Council to approve the proposal with or without recommended changes.
   c. Dean Kovar provided a document to members related to student academic creations and ownership of their work. The document was a paragraph from Section 9.10 of the WSU Policies and Procedures Manual. The paragraph had been recently changed, and Dean Kovar wanted to make Council members aware of the change. Previously the paragraph indicated simply that student academic work submitted in fulfillment of their degree was solely owned by the student. The revised paragraph adds some stipulation to that ownership.
   d. Dean Kovar provided a copy of page 19 of the Graduate Catalog for Council to review the “Incomplete” grade regulation. She is asking Council to consider adding a statement to clarify that an incomplete grade is only assigned after instructor and student have communicated and agreed on conditions and time frame for completing a course.
   e. Dean Kovar asked Council to consider the option of assigning a grade to thesis/dissertation hours each semester. Currently, as it takes more than one semester to complete a terminal activity, the grade of “I” is assigned to all semesters of thesis/dissertation until their work is completed.

III. Old Business
   a. Council continued discussion of the ETD Agreement form which requires a student signature to allow posting of their thesis or dissertation with the WSU Library repository (SOAR). Students can request up to a two year sequestration of their work, and Council discussed whether or not to add regulations to the form to allow “limited access.” Council agreed that once the thesis or dissertation was published on-line, the WSU Libraries could place the document under “limited access”, if the document’s copyright was being violated.
   b. Dean Kovar provided copies of the Role Statement document for thesis and dissertation committees with changes marked in italics. She asked that Council members review the document and email her with their opinion of the changes.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.