Minutes of Graduate Council Meeting

The Graduate Council met on Thursday, February 7, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. in Lindquist Hall 200.


I. Preliminary Items

- Minutes of the November 29, 2012 meeting were approved as distributed.
- Dean Masud announced the Capitol Graduate Research Summit will be held February 14 in Topeka. Nine WSU graduate students, along with students from KU, KSU and KU Med, will present their research to the Kansas legislature and KBOR in the rotunda of the state capitol building. Two students from each university will be awarded $500, funded by Kansas Bio.
- GRASP (Graduate Research and Scholarly Projects Symposium) will be held on May 8 in the Marcus Welcome Center.

II. Today’s Business

a. Biology update

The Biology department is resubmitting the curriculum change discussed at the last Council meeting regarding completion requirements and the number of S/U graded hours allowed on a POS. The new proposal will limit transfer credits to 6 hours, so there would be at least 10 hours of letter graded WSU coursework on a student’s POS.

b. Psychology Exception

Council revisited an exception request from Psychology that a PhD student be allowed to transfer four credit hours of thesis research from a previous WSU master’s program to their doctoral program in Psychology. Following continued discussions, Council members motioned and voted to allow the 4-hour transfer for this specific case, with a notation that this approval is not intended to set precedence for future exceptions of this kind to be allowed as well.

c. Handling Student Appeal Meetings draft

Members gave final approval on the draft document for the process of handling student appeals that go through the Graduate Council.

d. Grad Council Representation/Restructuring

Dean Masud asked the Business and Education reps on Council to confirm with their program areas that it is okay to have only one faculty serve on Council from each of their colleges (currently two from each college). A permanent change will need to go through graduate faculty vote.

e. Spring Action by Council

Dean Masud indicated that the following three items were potential major topics for Council to act on this spring: 1) interdisciplinary programs; 2) recruitment/enrollment; and 3) streamlining Graduate School processes.

- Dean Masud asked members to help him set up a committee to look into whether or not interdisciplinary programs should be expanded at WSU. As MALS is the only IDP currently at Wichita State, he will ask the committee to investigate and outline how to develop and manage new IDP’s. He asked Council members to check within their program areas, and bring faculty names forward who are willing to serve on the new committee.

- The Dean indicated he would like to start discussions about recruitment and enrollment in upcoming meetings. With concerns about graduate enrollment decreasing over a number of years, Council should be proactive about creating ideas to help turn the trend around.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.