Minutes of Graduate Council Meeting

The Graduate Council met on Thursday, March 5, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. in RSC 207.


I. Approve Minutes of February 19, 2009 meeting

Minutes of the February 19, 2009 meeting were approved as distributed.

II. Old Business

Council continued discussion of the differences between undergraduate and graduate teaching loads, and how the colleges determine loads with respect to the quality of education. A draft resolution previously emailed to Council by Associate Dean Masud was discussed and approved by all members for Dean McDonald to move forward to the Provost. The statement is as follows:

“Because of the current budget crisis facing WSU, there is an understandably renewed attempt to look at faculty course load and efficiency in the delivery of academic programs. As a result, colleges are looking into credit hours taught by faculty per semester and student credit hours (SCH) generated by each faculty. While these are appropriate to consider, the Graduate Council urges the Provost to consider the special nature of the graduate programs and the faculty load in teaching and advising graduate students and their research. In order to afford quality instruction and research, graduate level courses are smaller and involve substantially more faculty involvement than undergraduate courses. The Council would like the Provost to give appropriate weight to the teaching of graduate courses and the directing of graduate research while making these evaluations. We are concerned that doing otherwise may adversely impact the quality of graduate education at WSU”.

III. New Business

a. Impact of the Budget Crisis on the Graduate School

Associate Dean Masud discussed the impact of the budget on the Graduate School. He indicated that along with the 4% reduction already met within the FY09 budget, the university is preparing for a 9% reduction in the FY 2010 budget. As budgets must be cut within the GU (general fund) state budget, Graduate School plans for cuts to be made within GU operating expenditures, cutting recruitment funds normally given to departments, along with cutting the Hooding event, and moving a GU funded staff position to RU funding. In anticipation of the cuts, and in order to generate income into the RU budget, a request to increase the application fee for graduate students has been approved through the Board of Regents. Domestic application fees will increase to $50 from $35, and international app fees will increase to $65 from $50. The increase will be effective for spring 2010 applications.

Associate Dean Masud additionally noted that funding for graduate student fellowships for FY10 have been cut by 20% through the WSU Foundation.

b. Council Elections

Council Elections are currently taking place for the following representative positions on the Graduate Council: Business, Engineering, and the three for LAS: Humanities, Natural Sciences and Social Sciences. Emails will soon be sent to members of the Graduate Faculty to vote for a representative within those areas. Elections should be completed by mid-April.
c. Recruitment Events
AD Masud noted two upcoming recruitment events being hosted by the Graduate School.
- On March 5th, a workshop for current undergraduate seniors who RSVP, will provide information regarding why a graduate education is important, how to apply for grad school, and a representative from the financial aid will also attend to provide info regarding aid available to graduate students.
- The second event is a luncheon meeting to be held on March 12. Dean McDonald has invited Human Resources representatives from six aircraft companies (Boeing, Cessna, Hawker, Bombardier, Raytheon, and Spirit), to generate dialogue regarding how Wichita State can assist the increasing industry workforce that is facing unemployment.

d. Certificate Program
Council discussed and motioned to approve the Graduate Certificate Program in Entrepreneurship.

IV. As May Arise
Associate Dean Masud noted that Council’s April 2nd meeting will primarily focus on details regarding a student appeal case, with the hearing for the case being held at the April 16th meeting. He requested members be available to attend if at all possible.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.