Minutes of Graduate Council Meeting

The Graduate Council met on Thursday, March 6, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. in Devlin Hall 2nd floor conference room.


I. Approve Minutes of February 21, 2008 meeting

Minutes of the February 21, 2008 meeting were approved as distributed.

II. Old Business

a. Curriculum

- Accelerated BS/MS Program in Mechanical Engineering. Dean Kovar provided an updated proposal with requested revisions for the Accelerated program in Mechanical Engineering. Council members continued discussion of the proposal and motioned to approve the program contingent on clarifications provided to Dean Kovar from the department.

- Accelerated BS/MS Program in Economics. Dean Kovar provided the updated proposal for the Accelerated program in Economics. Council members discussed and motioned to approve the program with requested clarifications provided to Dean Kovar.

b. Dean Kovar noted she will be asking for coordinator’s input regarding a possible catalog change on assigning incomplete grades at the upcoming Coordinator’s meeting on March 25th. Council will continue discussion of the incomplete grade regulation, along with grading thesis/dissertation hours every semester, at Council’s next meeting on April 3rd.

III. New Business

a. AVP David McDonald, Director of Research, joined Council to discuss the strategic research plan that has been laid out by the University Research Council. Three main categories of sponsored research, specified by the URC at their January meeting, are listed below (established, promising, and emerging) with no order of priority. Dr. McDonald indicated that the list is not fixed and can be changed as needed in the future, and was created after looking at what best serves the mission of WSU as an urban university.

- **Established** (areas that are funded and largely self-supporting):
  - Aerospace Engineering Research
  - Center for Community Support and Research (formerly Self-Help Network)
  - Chemistry (polymer)
  - Communication Sciences and Disorders
  - Cisco Center
  - Human Factors Psychology

- **Promising** (areas with some funding; should know viability in 2-5 years):
  - Orthopedic Research (partnership with Via Christi Orthopedic Research Institute)
  - KU Planning Grant (for Biomaterials Center of Innovation)
  - Biology Field Station (land near Ninnescah)
  - Mechanical Engineering (nanomaterials)
  - Regional Institute on Aging
  - Sustainability Engineering (sustainable energy solutions in aerospace)

- **Emerging** (areas with no current funding; should know viability in 5-10 years):
  - Electrical and Computer Engineering - Data Storage (partnership with LSI)

He identified the following items at the leading edge. **Applied Sciences in**:

- Aerospace Engineering (related to regional industry needs)
- Information Technology (networking and data storage)
- Materials Science (composite and nanomaterials)
- Sustainability Engineering (related to regional industry needs)
o Health Sciences (aging, aerospace, and regional healthcare needs)
These three were identified as the basic foundation of support for the leading edge:
o Biology and Chemistry (statewide biosciences)
o Math and Physics (aerospace, IT, and biosciences)
o Social Sciences (aerospace, aging, IT, and biosciences)

b. Dr. McDonald discussed ideas/role of Council with regard to the upcoming transition and the Graduate School being aligned under the Associate Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Research.
c. HLC Report to WSU will be discussed at the next Council meeting in April.
d. Evaluation of the oral defense process will also be discussed at the next Council meeting.
e. A motion to accept alternative formats for theses/dissertations came forward from the Doctoral Programs Subcouncil. Dean Kovar provided members with guidelines for accepting alternative formats for theses/dissertations. Council voted to accept the motion.

IV. As May Arise
The next Council meeting, on April 3 is in RSC 305.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.