Minutes of Graduate Council Meeting

The Graduate Council met on Thursday, April 19, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. in Devlin Hall 2nd floor conference room.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Associate Dean D. Eichhorn, R. Calabrese, C. Claycomb, S. Coats, S. Farmer, K. Miller, M. Schommer-Aikins, E. Steinke, K. Wilks, D. Wright, and student representative I. Alwis.

I. Approve Minutes of April 5, 2007 meeting
Minutes of the April 5, 2007 were approved with minor corrections.

II. Announcements
Associate Dean Eichhorn noted that invitations to the GRASP Symposium (Graduate Research and Scholarly Projects) were mailed last week. The event is scheduled on Friday, April 27th at the Hughes Metropolitan Complex. He encouraged Council members to attend if possible throughout the day, between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

III. Old Business
No items were discussed.

IV. New Business
a. Council members disapproved appeals filed by two students whose Graduate School applications were denied as their bachelor’s degrees were not from Regionally Accredited Institutions.

b. Associate Dean Eichhorn and Denise Canoles of the Graduate School presented information to begin discussion on the acceptance of Three Year Bachelors Degrees from Bologna Process countries and India. The Bologna Declaration put in motion a series of reforms to make European Higher Education more compatible and comparable for their own citizens and citizens from other continents. The agreement now covers 45 countries which make up the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), who will be required to be in full compliance with Bologna requirements by 2010. The initial issue raised by U.S. educators/credential evaluators is whether three year degrees awarded under the Bologna process are to be considered equivalent to a U.S. bachelor's degree and/or acceptable for admission consideration to Graduate programs. World Educational Services (WES) and Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE) have recommended that three-year degrees granted under the Bologna process, although not equivalent to a 4-year U.S. Bachelor’s degree, could be considered acceptable for graduate school admission, since they demonstrate equivalent preparation within the discipline. They have also recommended the same for three-year degrees from Indian institutions which have been accredited with a rating of “A” or higher. Discussion was generally in favor of adopting such a policy at WSU, with further discussion to be held and final decision to be made at the next meeting of Council.

V. As May Arise
No items were brought forth.

Adjourned 3:50 p.m.