Minutes of Graduate Council Meeting

The Graduate Council met on Thursday, April 5 at 3:00 p.m. in Devlin Hall 2nd floor conference room.


I. Approve Minutes of February 16, 2006 meeting
Minutes of the March 1 and March 15th meetings were approved as distributed.

II. Announcements/Updates
- Dean Kovar distributed information on Fulbright Scholar Programs for faculty. She asked Council members to distribute this information in some way to other faculty.
- Dean Kovar indicated that ETS has announced that they are not releasing the iBT (internet-based test) edition of the GRE as scheduled in September of 2007.

III. Old Business
- Debrief the HLC Visit
  Council discussed the meeting with HLC team members and the team exit report.
- Update on University-wide Priorities
  Dean Kovar distributed an update on progress made on each priority.
- Update on Progress of DNP through Bd. Of Regents
  The visit by external consultants (required by the Board of Regents) is currently being set. The consultant’s report is reviewed along with the program proposal when the Council of Chief Academic Officers considers the proposal.
- Dual/Accelerated Program Guidelines
  Council discussed the issue of what’s the latest time when a student could enter a dual/accelerated program. For instance, could a student apply after completing the undergraduate degree? Further discussion of this question will occur at the May 3 meeting. In addition, Dean Kovar will bring an example of what the transcript will look like when a dual/accelerated degree is awarded.

IV. New Business
- Catalog Clarifications
  - Council reached consensus that “independent study” courses (since they are not terminal activity courses) should be held to the regulation that students receiving incomplete grades have two semesters (excluding summers) to complete the work.
  - Council discussed the need to clarify in the Graduate Catalog under what circumstances it is appropriate to give a grade of incomplete. Dean Kovar will write some text on this matter for Council to consider and approve.

- Using SOAR to Publish WSU Theses and Dissertations
  Since the WSU Libraries has developed SOAR (Shocker Open Access Repository), it is possible that the Graduate School could allow the WSU Libraries to publish WSU theses and dissertations (instead of having ProQuest provide that service for us). We may be able to decrease the cost to the students by making this move, and since SOAR is now being harvested by various search engines, the documents will be just as available to other interest parties. The properties on the documents can be set so that the reader cannot edit, copy, or do page extraction; thus protecting as much as possible against copyright infringements. Council did suggest that if documents are sent to interested parties via electronic means, a copyright statement in the e-mail would again warn against copyright infringements. Action items for Council to consider at the May 3 Council meeting include:
    - Drop ProQuest and have WSU Libraries publish theses/dissertations through SOAR?
    - Make SOAR “open access” for theses/dissertations?
• Determine length of delay time from when theses/dissertations are turned into the Graduate School and when they would be available for publication.
• Should a signature page be scanned and placed in the PDF files for theses and dissertations?

• Role Statement for Thesis/Dissertation Committees
Discussion of this item will be delayed until the Council re-convenes in the fall semester of 2007. Dean Kovar asked Council members to send comments to her at this time, if they had considered the document.

V. As May Arise
• At the next meeting (April 19), Council will consider two appeals. Materials to be reviewed where distributed. This appeal process will be led by Associate Dean Eichhorn.
• Council discussed the need to consider alternative formats for theses and dissertations. However, with only two meetings of the Council left in this academic year, agreement was reach to begin this consideration when Council re-convenes for the fall 2007 semester.

Adjourned 4:30 p.m.