Minutes of Graduate Council Meeting

The Graduate Council met on Thursday, April 5, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. in RSC 207.


Dean McDonald and Associate Dean Masud asked Council members to participate whenever they are able on the five presidential candidate interviews.

I. Approve Minutes of March 15, 2012 meeting
Minutes of the March 15, 2012 meeting were approved as distributed.

II. Old Business

a. Develop a policy for handling plagiarism found after a student has graduated
AD Masud provided a handout of a draft revision to the Student Code of Conduct section of the university policy and procedures manual, “Academic Dishonesty Detected After a Student has Graduated”. Council discussed and agreed to the revision which will now be forwarded to Ted Ayres office. Once approved through Counsel’s office, the revision can be placed in the Graduate Catalog.

b. Grad School Strategic Plan
Dean McDonald noted that the AAPG (formerly the Council of Deans) meeting is set for April 24 so there is still time for input from Council members regarding the draft statement on the Strategic Plan for Graduate Education and the Graduate School, “What do we aspire to be in 10 years?”. He will bring feedback from the group as they progress with their discussions.

c. Number of times an exit exam, thesis/dissertation defense can be taken
This item has been tabled for a future meeting.

d. Titles Doctoral Students Use at the Point of Candidacy
Dean McDonald addressed concern with appropriate use of the PhD title by doctoral students. Council members indicated it should be explicitly laid out in the Graduate Catalog, so that there is no confusion as to when using the PhD title is allowed.

e. Minimum Credit Hour Requirement for Thesis/Dissertation
Associate Dean Masud addressed the question of whether or not T/D credit hour enrollment should be related to the time/resources a student dedicates to the work, and what minimum makes sense; in terms of faculty time be accounted for, university resources being used in the process, etc. AD Masud indicated he will poll graduate coordinators for their input on this item.

f. Graduate Faculty Student Advising Load
Associate Dean Masud asked Council members if a limit should be set for the number of students a faculty member may advise at one time (is 20 too many?); should there be a recommended maximum; or policy recommendations set by the colleges. Members discussed how this issue always goes into a larger conversation regarding faculty loads, lack of faculty, issues of fairness, faculties ability to do research they want/need to do, along with unintended consequences if a limit is set, and whether or not students can find faculty willing to advise them. Following discussion, Dean McDonald indicated he will continue to handle the issue on a case by case basis, and will bring to Council as necessary.
g. Number of Course Validations Allowed for a Student
Associate Dean Masud began discussions regarding course validations and whether a student
should be limited on the number of validations they have. How to remain consistent; what to do
if the faculty member has left WSU; addressing the amount of elapsed time; and whether the
student is working in the field and maintains the knowledge. Discussion to be continued at a
future meeting.

IV. As May Arise
• Assistant Dean Alagic noted that GRASP is on Wednesday, April 18th in the Marcus
Welcome Center, and encouraged members to attend to support graduate students (20 oral
presentations and 60 posters). Preparations are going well, although she is still in need of a
couple more judges for the event.
• AD Masud reminded Council members to send topics to Council as they see needed.
• AD Masud noted a few departments have submitted their PSIT requirement to Grad School.
• AD Masud indicated Science & Engineering Assessment reports are due in the next couple
weeks; others departments need to just submit a plan and data. The Assessment committee
will be working with Associate Provost Muma’s office to help departments learn the process.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.