Minutes of Graduate Council Meeting

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


I. Approve Minutes of April 19, 2007 meeting
Minutes of the April 19, 2007 were approved with minor corrections.

II. Announcements
Dean Kovar and Associate Dean Eichhorn announced that the GRASP Symposium went very well, and thanked all who helped with the event. They stated there was a good turn out this year for the program with increased numbers of students who participated. Associate Dean Eichhorn congratulated Council’s student representative, Imala Alwis, who won the 2nd place award for his oral presentation at the Symposium.

III. Old Business
a. Accepting 3-Year Bachelor’s Degrees
After continued discussion on the acceptance of three-year bachelor’s degrees from Bologna Process countries and India, Council members motioned and agreed that the Graduate School should accept applications of students from European institutions completing the Bologna process, and students from Indian institutions which have been accredited with a rating of “A” or higher. These three-year bachelor’s degrees are thus meeting the basic Graduate School requirement of having an “earned bachelor’s degree.” It was understood that meeting the basic requirement of having a bachelor’s degree still places the burden on the academic department reviewing the application to determine if the bachelor’s program adequately prepared the student for admission into graduate studies. Applicants can begin to apply for the Fall 2008 semester and beyond, and students from Bologna institutions will be required to submit both transcripts and diploma supplements as part of their application. Dean Kovar will work on wording for the Graduate Catalog, for Council to review when they reconvene in the fall 2007 semester.

b. Dual/Accelerated Programs/Transcript Designation
Dean Kovar provided Council members with a sample transcript for a Dual/Accelerated Bachelor’s to Master’s Program student. The transcript indicates near the top that it is a “Dual Degree”, shows joint credit hours applied toward the undergraduate degree, and the courses that were joint hours in the dual program. After further review, Council members agreed there should be a change to reflect the joint hours applied to the graduate degree rather than the undergraduate degree. Dean Kovar will contact the Registrar, Bill Wynne, to discuss making such a change.

c. Using WSU Libraries to Publish Theses/Dissertations
Council members were given a handout listing recommendations made by Subcouncil at their April 23, 2007 meeting, regarding how WSU student’s thesis/dissertation publications should be accessed. Council members motioned and agreed to accept the following recommendations:

• drop ProQuest as our thesis/dissertation publisher and allow our Libraries (through SOAR) to publish the documents,
• allow “open access” to theses and dissertations available through SOAR,
• allow WSU Libraries to send requested thesis/dissertation electronically instead of through interlibrary loan,
• continue placing a signature page (with committee members names listed but no signatures present) in electronic theses and dissertations with notation on the signature page that signatures are on file in the WSU Graduate School.
• allow Graduate School to deliver documents to the Libraries based on the delay period of 6 months when the document is submitted, and
• charge the student the cost for the Libraries to produce an archival copy (microfilming). This cost is less than the current student charges for publication through ProQuest.

Misconception regarding the copyright page, that now is required in all theses and dissertations, were discussed. Dean Kovar currently has the Degree Audit Specialist telling students to add the copyright page to their thesis/dissertation submission. This page is placed in the document to remind readers that the information therein is the original work of the author and is thus copyrighted. Placing the copyright page in the document is not related to the process, currently available through ProQuest, whereby students may ask ProQuest to submit a copyright request to the government for the student. The Graduate School does not recommend that our students make such a request to ProQuest. It is not necessary. Council members suggested that a statement be added to the copyright page indicating what it means that the work is copyrighted. Dean Kovar agreed to investigate this possibility.

d. Progress on University-wide Priorities
Dean Kovar noted that Provost and VP Gary Miller is continuing work on the University-wide priorities list created earlier in the year. She reviewed the list and what items remain to be worked on.

IV. As May Arise
• Dean Kovar selected a date for Council to have dinner as a wrap up to the end of the Council year. An email will be sent to finalize plans.
• Future topics to be covered when Council reconvenes for fall 2007:
  1. Alternative formats for theses & dissertations
  2. Role statement for thesis and dissertation committees
  3. Progress Report on University-wide Priorities
  4. Recruiting a Diverse Graduate Student Body
  5. Graduate Education Support in Academic Colleges
  6. Graduate Assistant Stipend Levels
  7. Evaluation of the oral defense process
     a. Results from using the evaluation forms
     b. Timeline to make use of the form mandatory
  8. Removing graduate faculty standing for not fulfilling responsibilities

Adjourned 4:30 p.m.