Minutes of Graduate Council Meeting

The Graduate Council met on Thursday, September 3, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. in RSC 215.


Members introduced themselves and indicated the area they represent on the Council. An updated list of 2009-10 Council members was distributed.

I. New Business
      Dean McDonald discussed a report with Council members regarding two cases of plagiarism that were brought to the attention of the Graduate School in June of this year. Reviews conducted this past summer (initially using SafeAssign, followed by more intensive reviews of a committee selected by the dean) determined that plagiarism was in fact involved in the theses/dissertations in question. As both cases involved students from the College of Engineering, the Dean assigned the committee to review all theses and dissertations completed in the College of Engineering over the last five years. Additional cases of plagiarism were cited in the process, and the committee reported their results to the dean in late August. Dean McDonald read sections of the report to Council members, along with the recommendations noted by the committee. Council discussed the report and agreed with the recommendations laid out by the committee, addressing possible remediation for the students involved, as well as the faculty advisors chairing their defense committees. Dean McDonald will be contacting the students involved, and plans to meet with each faculty member cited in the reviews. He will report further to Council as needed on this issue.

   b. Report from Assessment Sub-committee – Elaine Bernstorf
      Elaine Bernstorf joined Council to report on the Graduate Program Assessment Committee meetings held during the spring 2009 semester. Committee members met to review plans and reports for each master's and doctoral program, and used a three point rubric to post their reviews/scoring on Blackboard. The report will be sent to programs and deans listing feedback and recommendations from the committee.

   c. GRE Requirement for Doctoral Admission
      Council members voted to approve a motion put forward from the Doctoral Program Subcouncil regarding the GRE requirement for doctoral admission. Following discussion at their meeting in April, Subcouncil approved the motion to drop the GRE requirement at the Graduate School level, but to leave the option open for programs that want to keep the GRE requirement for admission to doctoral programs. In order to update the next edition of the Graduate Catalog, a request will be sent to doctoral programs asking they indicate if they choose to keep the requirement, and if so, will the program list a minimum GRE score that students must meet to be admitted. Along with this change, the Graduate School will implement a plan to handle current, “conditionally” admitted PhD students who have not yet turned in their GRE score. Conditional admission allowed those students to submit their GRE score by the end of their first semester after admission. Programs will no longer be able to admit students on a “conditional” basis that have not yet submitted their GRE score.

II. As May Arise
   a. The following Council members were approved to serve as the Council’s representative to other committees for the 2009-10 academic year:
• Elizabeth Behrman will serve on the Graduate School Awards Committee.
• Kim McDowell will serve as Council rep on the Doctoral Program Subcouncil.
• Kathy Coufal and Cindy Claycomb will stand in as marshals at fall Commencement in December.

b. Associate Dean Masud noted that Council’s September 17th meeting has been cancelled. The next Council meeting will be held on October 1st.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.