The Graduate Faculty met Friday, March 2, 2001 at 3:00 p.m. in room 208 Hubbard Hall. Interim Dean Kovar called the meeting to order. Fifty-eight faculty were in attendance.

Minutes of the last meeting of the Graduate Faculty were not distributed as that meeting occurred quite some time ago (October, 1998).

The agenda consisted of two items: (1) change to the repeat policy and (2) change in the policies and procedures for awarding graduate faculty status. Both agenda items come before the Graduate Faculty as seconded motions from the Graduate Council.

**Change to the Repeat Policy**

Interim Dean Kovar summarized the primary intent of these changes and a lengthy discussion among the graduate faculty occurred on the suggested changes. Professor Jeri Carroll offered an amendment to the motion to approve the changes to the repeat policy. The amendment inserted the words “Within existing departmental and university guidelines” at the beginning of the last sentence in the policy statement. Amendment was seconded by Professor Ron Matson. Amendment carried. Professor Daugherty offered another amendment inserting “With the permission of the student’s major department” at the beginning of the first sentence of the policy statement. Amendment was seconded by Professor Will Klunder. Amendment was rejected.

The motion (as amended) to approve the changes to the repeat policy carried. The repeat policy now reads: 

*A graduate student may enroll in graduate courses (for credit) a second or subsequent time and have it counted as part of the semester’s load. If a course is repeated, the Graduate School will consider that the last grade earned replaces the original grade for purposes of admission and degree completion (in calculating initial and subsequent admission GPAs, in certifying the student’s eligibility for graduation, in certifying completion of certificate programs, and in computing the WSU graduate grade point average). Although the last grade earned becomes the grade of record (replaces original grade), the original course and grade continue to remain on the graduate transcript. Within existing departmental and university guidelines, WSU courses repeated at another institution may be used to complete program requirements, but the repeat grade will not be counted in the WSU grade point average (as transfer courses are not counted in the WSU grade point average).*

**Change in Policies and Procedures for Granting Graduate Faculty Status**

Interim Dean Kovar provided background on this topic, summarized the intent of the changes, and requested that the graduate faculty act upon the “intent” of the proposal (rather than becoming mired in the details of the proposal). Interim Dean Kovar described
the “statement of intent” as the first sentence of the preamble in the proposal: The Graduate Council believes that graduate faculty at the departmental level are best suited to evaluating faculty material for research productivity, scholarship and creative activities, and that the Graduate School and Graduate Council are best suited to providing quality control and due process for faculty seeking grievances in this matter. With no objections being voiced, the body proceeded to consider the “intent” of the proposal.

Professor Pickus offered a substitute motion as follows: to accept the “intent” to locate initial decision-making on awarding graduate faculty status at the departmental level. Professor Everett Johnson seconded the substitute motion. The substitute motion was rejected.

Discussion returned to the main motion. Professor Carroll moved a friendly amendment to make a minor wording change in the “statement of intent” being considered. She proposed replacing the words quality control with oversight. Interim Dean Kovar accepted the friendly amendment. The main motion carried. Thus, the graduate faculty accepted the following as a “statement of intent” on granting graduate faculty status: The Graduate Council believes that graduate faculty at the departmental level are best suited to evaluating faculty material for research productivity, scholarship and creative activities, and that the Graduate School and Graduate Council are best suited to providing oversight and due process for faculty seeking grievances in this matter.

The body reached consensus that the Graduate School should hold several town meetings in order to receive input for outlining the details of the procedures for granting graduate faculty status.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Addendum: the Graduate School received 76 absentee ballots and those ballots supported the actions taken at the meeting: 83% of absentee ballots supported the revised repeat policy, and 79% of absentee ballots supported the distributed document for changes in the policy and procedures for granting graduate faculty status.