Graduate Council Meeting

The Graduate Council met on February 17, 2005 in the 2nd floor conference room of Devlin Hall.

Members present: S. Kovar (Dean), M. Alagic, C. Claycomb, S. Coats, L. Hale, R. Hull, K. Krishnan, R. Liera-Schwichtenberg, D. McDonald, P. Rillema, N. VanDyke (student representative), J. Wolff, D. Wright.

I. Approval of Minutes from the February 3, 2005 meeting
- Minutes were approved as distributed.
- Dean Kovar welcomed Dr. Krishnan as the Engineering representative to the Graduate Council Meeting.

II. Graduate Faculty Nominations
- Three faculty members were reviewed for Graduate Faculty standing from Philosophy. The faculty members were David Soles, Debra Soles, and Robert Feleppa. All were approved for full standing.

III. Old Business
- Graduate Faculty Categories and Committee Structure—Dean Kovar handed out a revised version of this document. There was a motion to approve this document which bring consistency to the categories and establishes a new category of graduate faculty membership. Changes to current regulations were noted in italics in the document. There was brief discussion over the meaning of the term “mentoring”. The motion was approved. This document will now be presented to the Graduate Faculty for their consideration. Given the changes to the graduate faculty categories document, concomitant changes are needed regarding committee structure. There was a motion to approve such changes (as indicated on the handout provided by Dean Kovar). The motion was approved. Committee structure changes will also be presented to the Graduate Faculty.
- Discussion occurred briefly on other issues related to committee structure, such as how many positive votes in the committee are needed for the student to pass and is there a point at which a student can no longer change who is chairing the committee? Dean Kovar indicated the Doctoral Program Subcouncil is currently discussing such issues and their recommendation will be brought to the Graduate Council. Dean Kovar agreed to check on the wording of committee structure in the Graduate Catalog so it is consistent with what is currently in practice.
- Graduate School Mission, Vision, and Values—The Graduate Council briefly discussed this document and made changes. Dean Kovar will bring this document back for approval at the next meeting. (A side discussion occurred on ethics and integrity and the importance of such as faculty fulfill their academic responsibilities. For instance, if a graduate faculty member was found involved in unethical behavior what would happen to this person’s graduate faculty status? Further discussion of ethical behavior will occur at the next meeting.)

IV. New Business
- Revisions to Certificate Guidelines—Dean Kovar discussed some minor wording changes regarding admission to certificate programs. Graduate programs should have a process for knowing who is in a certificate program. The plan of study was also discussed regarding certificate programs because it triggers the degree audit process. The Graduate Council also discussed the graduate faculty status of
Acting Ad Hoc. This category is allowed to teach graduate level courses but not serve as a mentor to students. Based on the Council’s input, Dean Kovar will revise the Certificate Guidelines and bring it back to Council for action.

- Consider Growth in Doctoral Programs—discussion to continue at next meeting.

V. As May Arise

- Electronic Dissertation Update—The pilot project is continuing. Melissa Fleeker, degree audit specialist in the Graduate School, will be working with spring 2005 doctoral graduates and their committee chairs to submit dissertations only in an electronic format this semester.
- ERP Update—The ERP is not oriented toward the Graduate School, so this will continue to be worked on as representatives attend meetings.
- New TOEFL test—Dean Kovar brought some additional information that she had received at the Council of Deans Meeting in Washington D.C in December.
- The EEPS proposal will be reviewed at the next Graduate Council meeting.

Adjourned at 3:50 pm