

Graduate Council Minutes

October 18, 2007

Present: Ellen Gregg, Dianna Gray, Robbyn Wacker, Brian Johnson, Hannah Schertz, Kacy Guill, Frances B, recording secretary

Absent: Robert Murray, Michelle Athanasiou, Rutilio Martinez, Tracy Mueller, Annelise Wakkinen

Approval of Minutes

Wacker moved to approve minutes from 5/3/07 and 9/20/07. Seconded and passed.

ANNOUNCEMENT/REPORTS

Chair's Remarks:

Chair Jennifer Clarke was absent due to illness.

Dean's Remarks:

- Discussion regarding goals and objectives postponed until the November 15th Council meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

Standards Committee

- Two applications were resubmitted for review and approved as GF. Motion to approve. Approved.
- Two other applications reviewed at a prior Standards meeting were deferred until current vita is received.
- The committee brought forth 3 new applications. One was changed from GF to GL. Motion to approve change. Approved.
- The other 2 new applications were deferred; one denied DRE due to lack of experience on graduate student committees. The other app will be reviewed at later time when current vita is received.

It was decided that the Graduate School would review the Graduate Faculty applications first and return application to faculty along with a letter if missing materials. These apps will not go forward to Standards until all materials are received.

Program Review

- No report

Student Report

The first Graduate BBQ was well attended. The hope is to make this an annual event.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

There was discussion regarding graduate faculty appointments/reappointments. Trying to determine scholarship continues to be an issue. One of the goals for this year is to provide definitions and provide guidance for the Standards Committee when they are reviewing applications.

It was also suggested that the graduate faculty application be made interactive so faculty can complete and forward their completed app via email. This would help in speeding up the process and thus delivering a decision to the faculty member in a timely manner.

Standards will also review the comprehensive review and faculty evaluation cycle and how this affects graduate faculty applications.

Summer graduation

Robbyn informed the Council of the elimination of the summer graduation ceremony for summer 2008. Graduate students will still be able to complete their degree in the summer, but graduates will be asked to participate in either spring or fall graduation ceremony.

Robbyn will work with Graduate School staff to develop a plan on how to communicate this information to administration, programs, students and the campus community.

Dianna Gray commented that there is a need to enhance communication of issues regarding Graduate Education and issues affecting faculty. Issues are not delivered to faculty unless you are on a committee or on Grad Council.

Some ways to enhance communication to faculty:

- Post Council minutes online
- Publish a Graduate School Newsletter
- Send out Council information/minutes via the listserv. Provide an executive summary.
- Brown bags
- Academic Planning Meetings – promote graduate education

Hannah suggested that Council generate an ordered list of discussion items and provide a framework to forward feedback. Frances will pull items discussed at the September meeting and Hannah will develop a list of goals and objectives and ask Council members to number in order of importance. Frances will compile the list and bring to the November meeting.

Other items for further discussion:

- Graduate Faculty application process – streamline and make application interactive to allow faculty to complete and forward via email.
- Standards Committee will review the Graduate Faculty application cycle in relation to comprehensive review/faculty evaluations.
- Continuous registration
- Copyright issues – how to protect faculty scholarly work
- Digital repository
- Electronic thesis/dissertation

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.