

Graduate Council Minutes September 20, 2007

Present: Jennifer Clarke, Chair; Kacy Guill; Brian Johnson, Robert Murray, Tracy Mueller, Hannah Schertz, Robbyn Wacker, Annelise Wakkinen, Frances Braafhart, recording secretary

Guests: Laura Hulsey, Degree Compliance Specialist, Graduate School
Excused: Dianna Gray, Ellen Gregg, Rutilio Martinez

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS

Dean Wacker welcomed returning and new members of Graduate Council with appreciation for their attendance and service and looks forward to discussion on new initiatives by the Council.

Jennifer Clarke, Chair of Graduate Council for 2007-08, also thanked new and returning members. Jennifer has served as Chair of Council before and provided a little history regarding the make up of Council. The Graduate Council Guidelines indicate that Council shall consist of 12 members, 1 from each college and 6 others selected proportionally from all colleges. Jennifer stressed the importance of attendance in order to work on initiatives important to faculty.

Robbyn shared with Council her work with Academic Plan. One of the things we need to work on as a Council is to change the culture in how we promote scholarship. Research and Education are equally important and should be discussed equally.

ANNOUNCEMENT/REPORTS

Jennifer asked for introductions from Council members and she asked that they each tell what they each felt was the purpose of Council. Each Council member provided their comments and their suggested goals for the 07-08 Council term.

Why has Graduate Council lost so many seats? Jennifer would like to see the group grow and look at ways to increase the number of participants. Is it possible to have representation from every school? There will be discussion regarding a plan of representation to take forward to faculty senate.

Goal setting should be done first and then Council will review the representation issue again and see if there is a need for added seats. Some items to tackle in the upcoming year:

- Graduate Student Health Insurance – critical
- Assistantships/Support for Grad students, how to target, in state status
- Recruitment
- Policies and procedures: Continuous Registration Policy
- Program Review of Graduate Programs: Meaningful meetings on how to evaluate graduate programs
- Thesis/Dissertation Review and how this feeds into program review
- Copyright issues
- Graduate Faculty appointment/reappointment process; make this an electronic process

There is much work to be done and Council will need to prioritize.

Student Report

Annelise gave a flyer inviting Council members to attend a BBQ for Graduate Students and Graduate Faculty. Annelise hopes to make this an annual event. The BBQ is sponsored by GSA and the Graduate School.

The GSA council met at the end of year and during the last meeting, the council reviewed the allocation process of funds for graduate student travel to conferences. Applications are reviewed and graduate students requesting funding do need to meet certain criteria. To make this process more competitive, any incomplete apps will not be considered due to the high number of applications received.

Funding is distributed over 3 terms: fall, spring and summer. The GSA Council found that there was a greater need for funds in fall and spring, although summer is picking up. Grad students presenting receive more funding than those students who are just attending a conference. Graduate students can check the GRA website for details.

ACTION ITEMS

Standards Committee

There were 6 new applications reviewed and all were approved with the requested status.

There were 5 reappointments; all were approved as forwarded. Motion to approve, seconded and motion passed.

Standards would like to review with Council the issue of juried publications. There needs to be discussion on what it means to have Doctoral Research status. What are the qualifications?

There was further discussion about updating the Graduate Faculty Appointment/Reappointment application form and making an electronic version. At the March 29, 2007 Council meeting, it was agreed that Standards Committee would require faculty to submit the 1st page of at least 3 written products (or verification of artistic performances) that have been peer reviewed in the last four years and be attached to the application. The Graduate School will send out an email to all colleges with the new version of the form attached.

Program Review

Council needs to select a Chair for Program Review. Some of the issues that are reviewed by Program Review Committee are curriculum changes and any new programs that are forwarded to Council for review and approval.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Guest: Laura Hulsey – Degree Compliance Specialist

Laura provided information for discussion regarding the elimination of the Summer Graduate Commencement Ceremony for summer 2008. Laura provided data regarding graduation numbers and also costs associated with summer commencement.

This issue needs to be addressed soon if we hope to implement in 2008. Although the graduation ceremony itself would be eliminated, students will still be able to complete their degree in summer. Graduate students would have the option of walking either in spring or in fall. Also, deadlines for graduate students would not be affected due to this change.

It was decided that 2 written proposals, to include pros and cons regarding the cancellation of the August 2008 commencement, would be sent to Council members. The proposals would be to eliminate the graduation ceremony only. Council is asked to review and forward your comments to the Graduate School, either Robbyn at robbyn.wacker@unco.edu or Laura Hulsey at laura.hulsey@unco.edu.

Doctoral Committee Assignment

There was discussion about the make up of the doctoral committee. This was discussed at the December 7, 2006 Council meeting; however, there are still program areas not following the requirements. The composition of the doctoral committee is as follows:

Besides the doctoral program advisor appointed by the school, each doctoral student will have a doctoral committee. At minimum, a doctoral committee must consist of: 1) a chair or co-chair from within the program; (if co-chair, one must hold DR.) 2) one additional faculty member from within the program; 3) one additional faculty member from within the area of inquiry; 4) a faculty representative. All committee members must have at least GF status. The Chair must have DR. The Doctoral Committee is subject to the approval of the advisor. Please consult your advisor for individual program requirements.

The exception would be if a faculty member is on too many committees and is unable to sit on one more. This would impact smaller programs with fewer faculty members.

Robbyn, Lesley Compagnone (Marketing), Loreta Dalton & Linda Sisson (Graduate School) have been meeting with Program Graduate Coordinators and Directors regarding the Graduate School Admissions Process, Recruitment and Marketing of Graduate Programs. Publications is currently working with the Graduate School in the development of a Graduate Viewbook. The group has currently met with 8 program areas, with more meetings to be scheduled.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Braafhart