

Graduate Council Minutes December 6, 2007

Present: Jennifer Clarke, Chair, Kacy Guill, Sean O'Halloran, Brian Johnson, Robert Murray, Hannah Schertz

Guest: Judy Richter

The meeting was called to order.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The agenda was approved.

The November 15th minutes were approved as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS

Chair's remarks

Jennifer will organize the purchase and delivery of a wine and cheese basket to Robbyn while she recovers from surgery. Robbyn is out on medical leave until the 1st week of January 2008.

There was discussion regarding the submission of manuscripts/articles at the end of the dissertation product (rather than submitting a chapter 6). There was a concern that students may submit articles of poor quality. Dianna Gray volunteered to be part of a committee to discuss this issue as well as the submission of electronic dissertations and copyright. Council would like to solicit someone from the Library to be on this committee as well.

Jennifer announced that she would like to invite Provost Abe Harraf to a future Graduate Council meeting. Frances will contact the Provost Office to get a Council meeting on Abe Harraf's calendar.

Alternate Dissertation Format

Judy Richter introduced the topic of "Alternative Dissertation Format." Judy has been working with Carol Steward, Graduate School, in updating/revising the Dissertation handbook for graduate students and faculty.

Judy distributed draft dissertation format (article-style dissertations) and she provided advantages and disadvantages to Alternative Dissertation Format. There was a suggestion that a menu option be developed to allow disciplines to select/choose the format they would like to use. Please review the drafts provided and provide any feedback to Judy by January 2008.

Student Report

No student report.

ACTION ITEMS

Council members discussed a new process for the review of "Outstanding Thesis & Dissertations" It was suggested that guidelines be developed to assist Council members when they review and evaluate these products. The nomination deadline date will also be moved up to a week, or the Tuesday before the "last day for filing Thesis & Doctoral Dissertation" by the graduate student. Council will dedicate a council meeting to the review of the nominated "Outstanding Thesis & Dissertations," and a rubric will be developed to facilitate the evaluation of the dissertations.

A guidelines rubric will also be developed and provided to faculty who are nominating the student dissertation. This rubric will help faculty assess their student's dissertation. Program Review Committee has been assigned the task of developing the rubric. Dean Wacker will provide Program Review with a copy of the book "Making the Explicit Implicit" to assist them in their work. Program Review Committee includes Brian Johnson, Michelle Athanasiou, Hannah Schertz, Ellen Gregg and Dianna Gray volunteered to work with the committee.

Standards Committee

Standards Committee reviewed 2 new appointments and 4 reappointments. All were approved as submitted: 5 faculty were approved GF; 1 faculty member approved DRE. Move to accept Standards Committee recommendations. Motion passed.

There was discussion regarding a new grade designation of FX (this designation is used when a student fails a course due to cheating). Should a student received this grade, they would not be allowed to retake course and could not improve their GPA. Council is not in favor of using this new grade designation, but it was suggested that the FX designation be included on the student transcript.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Council members are asked to provide feedback on the question: "What are the hallmarks of an institution that promote research and scholarship?" Several Council members suggested that this discussion be postponed until the meeting with Provost Harraf.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Happy Holidays to all!

Next Standards Committee Meeting: January 10, 2008.

Next Council meeting: January 17, 2008.

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.