
PRESENT: Elizabeth Alderton, Sharon Chappy, Susan Cramer, John Cross, Mike Ford, Karen Gibson, Kathy Hagens, Judith Hankes, Marci Hoffman, Phan Hong-Lishner, Emmanuel Jean Francois, Deb Matulle, Karl Nollenberger, Reggie Parson, Alan Saginak, Sudipto Sarkar, Bob Stelzer, Jen Szydlik, Lee Van Scyoc, Teri Wegner, Amy Williams, Greg Wypiszynski

EXCUSED: Denise Clark, Steve Dunn, Karen King, Shelly Lancaster, Christine Roth, Kelli Saginak, Bill Wresch

The meeting was called to order at 1:20 p.m. by Sharon Chappy.

APPROVAL ITEMS

- The minutes of the Graduate Council meeting of September 12, 2013 were approved as written. Motion to approve/Second: Jen Szydlik/Karen Gibson.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- **Graduate Council Orientations for New Faculty Members:** Every semester, new Faculty members join the Graduate Council, and at this time, an orientation is not available for them. Two changes will be made to orient new Faculty to the Council; a) the welcome letter sent from the Office of Graduate Studies will be modified to better explain expectations and responsibilities; and b) a faculty member of the Council (either the Graduate Council Chair or a member from the same college or department as the new member) will informally explain the expectations and responsibilities to new members.
- **Graduate Faculty Award and Reception:** The Provost suggested that the Graduate Council create a Distinguished Graduate Faculty Award and reception to be offered each academic year. The Graduate Council will determine the criteria, then forward it to the Provost. The Council suggested creating two separate committees; one for the award and one for the reception.
 - **Distinguished Graduate Faculty Award:** Bob Stelzer, Mike Ford, Susan Cramer, and Sharon Chappy will meet to discuss how the Rosebush Scholarship and the Distinguish Teaching Award are determined and processed.
 - **Reception:** The idea of an off-campus meal that requires an invitation and RSVP was discussed. Invitations will be sent to Graduate Faculty, Graduate Staff, and Graduate Students. The Council agreed to discuss this further at a later date.
- **Graduate Council Committee Chairs:** Committee assignments were determined during the last Graduate Council meeting, and the Chair assignments are:
 - Executive Committee: Sharon Chappy
 - Curriculum Approval Committee: Jen Szydlik
 - Academic Policies Committee Graduate Studies Representative: Jen Szydlik
 - Distinguished Research Award Committee: Judith Hankes
 - Graduate Studies Travel Fund: Kathy Hagens
 - Graduate Studies Initiatives Program: Alan Saginak (fall 2013, only)
 - Segregated Fees Committee Graduate Student Representative: Dilnoza Jumaeva, Business Administration

- **Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs):** MOOCs are free, online courses offered by universities around the world. Students may receive a certificate of course completion after finishing a MOOC, and some universities have already begun accepting some MOOCs as graduate transfer credits. The MBA program has noticed that some universities already accept MOOCs for graduate credit. There currently is a very good MOOC that offers courses similar to the MBA's Foundation Courses. If we don't accept the MOOC courses for credit, someone else will. This could be a good recruiting option, and some students need the option of less expensive courses.

However, certificates of completion from MOOCs don't prove that faculty review or feedback was provided to the students. All students will want to take free courses and transfer them in for credit, but we need to verify the quality. Program control may be an option, if the students are able to prove their competencies. Being a Bulletin year, now is the time to update the Transfer Credit Policy to include MOOCs, if that is what the Council would like to do. The Council agreed to discuss this again in the future.

- **Attrition:** A few graduate programs have experienced a larger number of drop-out students at the beginning of this academic year than in previous years. Some students were very open about their reason for dropping from their graduate programs, including; too much reading required, more work than they were expecting, and they found an "easier" option elsewhere. It appears that when a program holds-up to the expected rigor and standards of a "graduate" degree, they lose people. Discussion ensued, Not all programs are experiencing this.
- **HLC Update:** The Provost has requested updating graduate program websites (if they haven't been updated recently). Susan Cramer asked if any programs needed support from IMC to update their websites.
- **Distinguished Research Award Review:** A total of 7 students were nominated for a Distinguished Research Award. Last week, MAGS announced a change in eligibility (graduation dates). One nominated thesis is no longer eligible for the award for this reason. The remaining students are all excellent and would represent UW Oshkosh well. The Committee will meet next week to make a final decision.
- **Dual-Level Review:** Susan Cramer has continued to meet with programs for the remaining syllabi.
- **Graduate Student Association Update:** OSA officially recognized the GSA on October 1, and their next meeting is on October 8 from 4:45-6:00pm in Sage Hall 2210. The Chancellor met with Reggie Parson, and offered to speak at a future event this year.
- **STEP:** 11 STEP proposals were received, and totaled over \$43,000. Susan Cramer and Sharon Chappy thought all were worthy of funding, and will provide funds to everyone who applied; however at a lower amount than requested. Award letters will be sent by October 4.

Motion to adjourn/Second at 2:34pm: Jen Szydlik/Alan Saginak. The next Graduate Council meeting is on November 7, 2013 from 1:20 – 2:50pm in Sage Hall 2210.

Marci Hoffman, Recorder

Copies to:
 Graduate Council
 Provost Lane Earns
 Deans
 OSA President
 Office of Graduate Studies Staff