

**PRESENT:** Sharon Chappy, Steve Dunn, Mike Ford, Karen Gibson, Judy Hankes, Marci Hoffman, Phan Hong-Lishner, Emmanuel Jean Francois, Karen King, Shelly Lancaster, Pascale Manning, Deb Matulle, Mandy Potts, Sudipto Sarkar, Bob Stelzer, Jen Szydlik, Teri Wegner, Bill Wresch

**EXCUSED:** Elizabeth Alderton, Jamie Ceman, Denise Clark, Susan Cramer, John Cross, Kathy Hagens, Reggie Parson, Christine Roth, Kelli Saginak, Lee Van Scyoc, Amy Williams, Lori Worm, Greg Wypiszynski

The meeting was called to order at 1:21 p.m. by Sharon Chappy.

- A. The minutes of the Graduate Council meeting of March 6, 2014 were approved as written. Motion to approve/Second: Jen Szydlik/Karen Gibson.
- B. The Curriculum Approval Committee recommended approval for the following actions. Motion to approve/Second: Jen Szydlik/Pascale Manning. Motion passed.
  - 1. Form B: English 320/520, Special Topics in Linguistics
  - 2. Form C: Eliminate BUS 710 and Reduce Foundation Courses
- C. In response to the March 6 Graduate Council discussion and vote in regards to Dean Cramer's summer CAS, the Provost stated there is a chance that he may have to take funding from the GSIP. A shortfall caused by the 4% reduction already required the Provost to take additional salary savings from the Graduate Studies account.

As for a 12-month contract, the Provost noted differences in responsibilities for the Graduate Dean versus the Academic Deans. Because we are a decentralized campus, the Dean of Graduate Studies does not have primary control over curriculum, program budgets, hiring/firing of faculty, and other related issues similar to those of the Academic Deans. Dean Cramer is fulfilling an important role, but not an equivalent to the other Deans. The Graduate Council expressed a need to create a Dean of Graduate Studies equivalent to an academic Dean in the future.

- D. Nominations for the Friends of Graduate Education awards are due May 1, and the Graduate Faculty & Friends Reception will be on May 22 from 4-6pm in the Pollock House. For the Distinguished Graduate Faculty Award, the Provost has agreed to provide \$1000 each year for up to 3 years while the Graduate Council makes progress toward an endowment.
- E. The Graduate Studies Travel Fund Committee announced that all applicants received the full amount requested for the spring cycle. Several of fall's awardees accepted less than they were awarded, which provided extra funding for spring. A balance of more than \$800 remains; this is the first year-ending balance noted for Travel Fund awards in 4-5 years.
- F. Two potential endowments were discussed to support graduate student travel and the Distinguished Graduate Faculty Award. Discussion included moving forward with one, both, or neither endowment. The Graduate Council can work with the Foundation to attract and contact donors, but the consensus from Council members is that major donors may be more

inclined to support student travel before faculty recognition. Ways to increase funding are to share student travel/research stories, provide naming rights to donors, and the possibility of earning funds from cost recovery programs. The GSA will also be involved by hosting events that would include alumni, friends, faculty, staff, and current students.

G. The Graduate Student Association welcomed Chancellor Wells to their meeting on April 8 in the Alumni Welcome & Conference Center. Chancellor Wells spoke about his experiences as a graduate student and his upcoming retirement.

H. The Graduate Council had a working session to review the following bulletin policies:

1. Credit for Prior Learning (New): Many programs may already waive courses due to student's prior experience. One example is if an MBA student has been employed as the Director of Human Resources for multiple years – they would not be required to take the Human Resources course toward their degree.

UW Oshkosh currently allows students to transfer-in 9 credits toward a graduate degree program, and felt credit for prior learning is a subset of the university's current Credit Transfer/Waiver policy. Council members felt that of the 9 credits students may transfer-in, no more than 6 may be for prior learning. Any requests to waive a course would be reviewed and determined at the program-level. Sharon Chappy stated she would write a draft policy to be discussed at a future meeting.

2. Independent Study: Discussion of offering 0.5 credit Independent Study courses at the graduate level ensued. The purpose of this credit load is to provide graduate students with a course that counts toward their degree and can help them obtain the 4.5 credits needed for financial aid eligibility. The Council agreed that the workload expected of the faculty is too high for the minimal outcomes expected from the student's work at the graduate level.
3. Thesis, Clinical Paper, Field Project Continuation Policy: The Graduate Council supports charging fees to students who do not complete their thesis the semester(s) in which they are registered. This is a standard expectation at the graduate-level; however, each program will have full authority to waive fees for their students on a case-by-case basis.

Summer session: Faculty are not contracted during the summer months, and cannot be expected to work with a student who didn't complete their culminating experience in spring. If a student chooses to wait for fall graduation, the Council felt a summer fee should not apply. However, if a student insists on summer graduation, a fee will be charged.

Graduate programs will need to monitor registration for culminating experience credits (make sure students register for their credits at the expected time(s)). Any students who formally withdraw from a program will not be charged this fee.

The Council agreed to create a committee to work through the logistics to create this policy, and applying it to the student's accounts. Sharon Chappy, Pascale Manning, and Phan Hong-Lishner volunteered to participate in this review. Other parties the Council would like involved include Susan Cramer, Greg Wypiszynski, Deb Matulle, Lori Worm, and Lisa Danielson.

4. Transfer and Waiver Courses: This policy hasn't been reviewed in several years, the Council updated the policy based on current university practice and standards.
- I. Merit-based tuition remissions are available to graduate students to cover fees for non-resident students. After the remission is applied, tuition cannot be lower than in-state rates (per UW System). Graduate Assistants receive a tuition waiver as part of their fringe benefits package, and International students receive waivers through the Office of International Education. Additional funding is available to support Non-resident students, and may be used as a marketing-tool to attract more students to UW Oshkosh.

Motion to adjourn/Second at 2:51pm: Jen Szydlik/Bob Stelzer. The next Graduate Council meeting is on May 1, 2014 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