GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES
November 18, 2005

Present: A. Dos Reis, M. Roehm, J. Raskin (Chair), L. Garrick Duhaney (Dean), M. Guiry, J. McLaurin, D. Miller, Pam Atkins, Barbara Chorzempa, M. Muffs (secretary)

The meeting was called to order in HAB 802 at 2:00 p.m.

1. The minutes of the meetings of November 11, 2005 were approved.

2. Announcements

Dean Laurel Duhaney reviewed her presentation to the College Council.

3. Revision of By-Laws

The Graduate Council does not have the authority to approve revisions the By-Laws. Only the annual Graduate Council faculty-meeting quorum has the authority to do so. This, therefore, means that the graduate faculty will vote on the most revisions to the By-Laws at its next regularly scheduled Graduate Faculty Meeting in spring 2006.

Thesis and Independent Study Guidelines

There was considerable discussion about streamlining the thesis and independent study processes. Council members were encouraged to discuss these issues in their departments, and to collect documentation of any formal or informal procedures that programs use when they conduct thesis and/or independent study. The goal is for the Graduate Council to learn how to better support programs that offer thesis and independent study options.

Report of Graduate Dean at Faculty and Professional Staff meetings

Jon Raskin will send a request to John VanderLippe, the Presiding Officer, to permit the Dean of the Graduate School to give a report on the status of the Graduate School at the faculty/professional staff meeting. This could potentially focus wider campus attention on the important role of graduate education at SUNY New Paltz.

Plans of Study

We reviewed a ‘template’ plan of study that is used by the MA in English program. The Graduate Council made recommendations regarding how this ‘template’ could be modified for use by other departments (e.g., adding
columns for credits attempted and earned. In addition, the GC suggests that four signatures be part of the document (advisor, chair, student, graduate dean).

Approval of Graduate Academic Program Assessment Plans

The Council currently has several graduate academic program assessment plans to review. It was decided that members are to review these plans and that each will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

Approval of New Courses

Dean Garrick Duhaney will find out specific information for the approval of on-line course proposals.

4. New Business

Selectivity and Diversity: What does it mean for graduate admissions?

Dean Garrick Duhaney is looking for suggestions on process for the purpose of admitting candidates. There was discussion as to the meaning of “diversity” and the “standards” for acceptance.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Muffs, Secretary, November 18, 2005

Next meeting: December 2, 2005 @ 1:00 p.m.