Graduate Council Meeting Feb. 27, 2009 Minutes

Attending: Laurel Garrick Duhaney (Dean), Karen Bell (Presiding Officer), Barbara Chorzempa, Liz Hester, Tabitha Holmes, Dan Kempton, Ying Lin, Gweneith M. Lloyd, Jan McLaurin, Bernadette Morris, Judith Rance-Roney, Narcyz Roztocki, Anat Shiftan, Vika Shock

- Approval of Minutes from Feb. 13th. Some discussion requesting minor corrections, all approved.

- Announcements:
  - Today’s meeting will be shortened to provide graduate council members the opportunity to attend the presentation given by one of the candidates interviewing for the position of Provost.

- Old Business:
  - Course proposals
    - Revisions were received for Sec Ed course and were approved by Laurel. The proposal was forwarded to records and registration to be entered in course master file.
    - Laurel is awaiting the revisions from business to their course proposal.
  - Graduate admissions policy:
    - We will be undergoing a review by Middle States in 2010/11 and thus Laurel would like to have the most up-to-date and detailed information on the graduate school website regarding our policies and procedures.
    - Regarding the admissions policy, several programs would like to consider life experiences. From the graduate school perspective, how can we describe how to measure life experiences in such a way that we can explain it as policy? Policies that are posted online would be those that are applicable across the board, noting that some programs have additional requirements and to confer with each program’s specific criteria.
    - Graduate council members were asked to discuss this topic within our departments and schools and for us to request it be put on our department/school council agendas.
    - A meeting of the graduate faculty to continue discussions will be arranged by Karen. Laurel and Karen will confer dates with graduate council members and then the meeting announcement will be sent to all graduate faculty by Karen.
    - As always, exceptions will be considered with supporting documentation.
    - The question was raised regarding the progress on gathering data to help inform us as we seek to refine our policy. Laurel stated a meeting with the Provost is scheduled next week to discuss data. Vika stated that data are being gathered on administrative denials as well as appeals.
    - Judy raised the question: Have we looked at the relationship between GPA below 3.0 and academic standing? This could provide us with weight to support our decision. Similarly have we compared TOFL scores and academic standing?
    - Also, Laurel asked us to examine our programs: are we meeting the needs of our population?
“Fresh start” program at many community colleges at the undergraduate level. That is students can take two semesters of coursework and then prior GPA can be dropped. Is this something to consider?

Karen made a recommendation that everyone go back to their depts. and bring something to our meeting on March 6.

Distance and blended courses: Currently there are no stated or specific guidelines. A committee is being formed to discuss criteria for evaluating these courses. Members of the committee include: Provost, Richard Kelder, and Linda Smith. Reps from each School will also participate, including Stella Turk, Glenn Geher, Devon Duhaney. A suggestion was made to include a few students on the committee as well. Laurel will provide council members with the date.

New Business

Existing online course proposal guidelines were disseminated. Council members were asked to please read for next time. Another packet distributed which is a packet Linda Smith gives when instructors teach an online course.

Psychology course proposal: Laurel asked council members to please review as a seated course, but also use previously disseminated information to review the online version of the course as an online course. That is, can we use the guidelines as is or do we need to revise them?

Laurel asked if there were issues council members wish to add to the agenda. Topics suggested were:

- Marketing
- Economic situation: teachers losing jobs and thus they make seek additional certifications in an attempt to make them more marketable. Should we consider other CAS programs? Certification only programs? Discussion ensued. Concerns re: advisement to potential students.

Meeting adjourned at 1:50

Submitted by Barbara Chorzempa