

Graduate Council Meeting, March 4, 2011

Meeting called to order 1:05.

Present: Inge Anema, Stella Deen, Matthew Friday, Dan Kempton, Gweneth Lloyd, Jan McLaurin, Rosemary Millham, Andrea Noel, Narcyz Roztock, Rose Rudnitski, Vika Shock

1. Minutes for the meeting of February 18, 2011 were approved.

2. Announcements

Vika announced that the work flow application process has successfully been used for MFA fall 2011 admissions. Matthew confirmed that the electronic process worked efficiently.

3. Old Business (tabled)

4. New Business

a. Baback Izadi spoke to the proposal for a 5-year dual degree BS-MS program in Electrical Engineering and Computer Engineering. The 5-year dual degree program addresses the problem that there are too few domestic electrical and computer engineering students at New Paltz. The “fast track” to the MS degree would potentially attract more domestic students. Furthermore, the BS degree is not entirely adequate for many jobs, but students have difficulty returning for the MS after they have begun their careers. The dual degree program would give students the MS before they leave campus.

Rose noted that the new program allowed students to count two 500-level courses toward both the BS and MS. She said that SUNY and/or NY state regulations prohibits “double dipping,” or applying credits from one course to two programs. Subsequent investigation on the internet, however, discovered a dual-degree Electrical Engineering program at Binghamton that seems to count 9 credits of course work toward both the BS and MS. Stella will inquire further.

Rosemary suggested that not only undergraduate but also graduate courses be listed on the proposal, and Baback said this could easily be done.

The Council gave its support to the proposal.

b. Stella asked the Council to consider ways to evaluate the quality of our graduate programs and suggested that one criterion might be the relevance of the program to the “core mission” of the college. There was some discussion about what the administration understands by “core mission,” and several Council members expressed concern that the core mission has been defined without adequate consideration of the graduate programs. Rosemary pointed out that the Office of Alumni Relations, for example, maintains contact only with alums from the undergraduate programs. Stella suggested that the Council invite Sally Cross to a meeting to discuss outreach to alums of the graduate programs.

Several other criteria of academic quality were mentioned: accreditation standards and assessment prescribed by accrediting bodies, learning outcomes assessment, placement in doctoral programs, and professional productivity. Stella was especially interested in gathering data from employers.

It was noted that the Graduate School does not have a mission statement. An ad hoc committee of three (Rose, Rosemary, Inge) was set up to work on a mission statement, vision points, and a strategic plan.

Stella asked the Council to review for next meeting the material posted on Blackboard from the Graduate Student Exit Survey.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35.

Dan Kempton