**Graduate Council Meeting**

**September 25, 2015**

**203D DEV**

**Minutes  
(approved 1/22/16)**

**Faculty Present:**  D. Balfour, A. Booth, S. Choudhuri, D. Eick, J. Engelsma, M. Harris, C. Leiras, L. Huang, M. Luttenton, B. Martin, P. Ratliff-Miller, M. Staves,

**Administrative Ex-Officio Present:** B. Cole, I. Fountain, T. James-Heer, S. Lipnicki, S. Soman, J. Stevenson

**Elected Students Present:** J. Fuller

**Ex-Officio Students Present**: J. Lawton, B. Showerman

**GSA Officers Present:** L. Presutti, N. Zweifel

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **AGENDA ITEM** | **DISCUSSION** | **ACTION/DECISION** |
| **I. Call to Order** | M. Luttenton called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM. |  |
| **II. Approval of Agenda** |  | **Motion:** C. Leirasmoved to approve the agenda. A. Booth seconded. Motion passed unanimously. |
| **III. Approval of Minutes – April 24, 2015** |  | **Motion:** C. Leirasmoved to approve the September 4, 2015 minutes. A. Booth seconded. Motion passed unanimously. |
| **IV. Chair’s Report – M. Luttenton** | ECS approved the Graduate Council charges with no changes. All standing committees are now required to submit a mid-year report to ECS at the end of the fall semester. |  |
| **V. Curriculum Subcommittee Report – M. Staves** | The GC-CC sometimes receives new course proposals that are similar to existing courses. Sometimes this duplication is due to requirements of accrediting bodies that want their programs to provide their own courses in a subject, but in other cases, it would benefit the university and students if some of these courses could be interdisciplinary. This would be congruent with the strategic plan which calls for more interdisciplinary opportunities for students. Offering such courses would also reduce curricular glut.  GC members discussed the difference between IPE courses and interdisciplinary courses. They are not the same. IPE courses bring students together from other disciplines to purposefully learn how to work together.  The GC-EC will discuss this at the next meeting. Possible solutions are to meet with CCC chairs to discuss the problems with curricular review at graduate level; and to have the GC-CC members attend their CCC meetings. M. Luttenton will speak with R. Adams to see if duplication is a systemic issue and occurs at undergraduate level as well. |  |
| **VI. Policy Subcommittee Report – A. Booth** | The GC-PC has reviewed the OGS Strategic Plan 2016-21 and is working on a dual enrollment policy that affects undergraduate students taking graduate level classes and a corresponding form; combined degree programs and the percentage of overlap, e.g. the total number of credits counted toward each degree vs. a percentage of total credits. An issue that arose from this discussion was that GVSU does not allow students who complete an undergraduate degree wherein they earned graduate credit to use any of the graduate credit toward a graduate degree.  Policy on Projects, Thesis, and Dissertation Credit A. Booth submitted the draft policy for review and vote. | **Motion:** The GC-PC moved to approve the Graduate Academic Policy for Projects, Thesis, and Dissertation Credits. Motion passed unanimously. |
| **VII. GSA Report –L. Presutti/N. Zweifel** | The grad picnic was a success with over 100 attendees.  The GSA is in the process of seeking a new communications officer to replace the student who stepped down. Representatives are still needed for the Graduate Council, University Assessment Committee, and the Universal Student Evaluation of Teaching Implementation Task Force.  The funding board met and reviewed proposals. A change was made so that the GSA does not request funding from the board because it has its own budget, thus it no longer votes on RSO budget requests. S. Lipnicki commended N. Zweifel for the excellent job at the first funding board meeting.  The bylaws were revised to reflect the change to the Office of Graduate Studies for reimbursements and to change the award amounts for travel to $500 for domestic travel and $750 for international travel. RSO’s still receive a maximum of $3,500. The bylaws include a requirement for students to complete a form after travel in order to receive reimbursement but this was not being enforced until now. |  |
| **VIII. Dean’s Report – J. Stevenson** | The graduate faculty meeting was held on September 18th. The casual setting around tables facilitated good discussions.  The academic conference fund continues to receive applications from students who are not the primary presenter. These applications are denied and students are directed to their RSO. |  |
| **IX. New Business** | OGS is still accepting applications for the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies position.  The Graduate Council congratulated S. Soman on her permanent appointment to the Registrar position. |  |
| **X. Adjournment** |  | **Motion:** P. Ratliff-Miller moved to adjourn. A. Bostrom seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:13 AM. |