

Graduate Council
October 1, 2004
Minutes

Faculty Members Present:

Cynthia Grapczynski, Jeff Ray, William Crawley, Bennett Rudolph, Dave Cannon, Roger Wilson, Cynthia Coviak, Rita Kohrman, Elaine Schott (for George Grant)

Student Members Present: Dorjee Damdul, Jennifer Treat

Administrative Ex-Officio:

Steve Lipnicki, Pew Student Services, Simone Jonaitis, Continuing Education, Priscilla Kimboko, Graduate Studies, Julianne Vanden Wyngaard, CLAS,

Student Ex-Officio: Carissa Bannan, Kenneth Patricio, Rachael Stern

1. Meeting Called to order by C. Coviak, Interim Chair, 9:00 am.
2. Approval of Minutes, September 17.
 - Approved (Grapczynski, moved; Ray, seconded; unanimous approval)
3. Approval of Agenda
 - Agenda was approved (Grapczynski moved; Ray, seconded; unanimous approval)
4. Report from the Dean:
 - P. Kimboko announced that Provost Gayle Davis will attend our October 8 meeting, to discuss strategic issues related to graduate education (9:00 to 9:30)
 - New members were introduced: William Crawley, from Criminal Justice, College of Community and Public Service; Jennifer Treat, graduate student from Criminal Justice).
 - CLAS elections have taken place this week, and new members will be known later today. They will be invited to next week's meeting
 - Curriculum for OT program changes and DPT are here for distribution today
5. Report from UCC representatives
 - Both C. Grapczynski and R. Wilson noted that the UCC reviewed the course proposals for OT and PT at their September 29 meeting. Not sure why the Graduate Council is being asked to review it after UCC has already done so.
 - P. Kimboko responded that UCC reviewed because they had nothing else to review, and that R. Grant has asked for GC to make recommendations before UCC makes their final review/approval.
 -
6. Council divided into 3 subgroups to review the Strategic Plan for Graduate Education and to go over the three major priorities identified in this process in 2002:
 - Role(s) for Graduate Education at GVSU;
 - Relationships with 'publics' for graduate education; and
 - Resource needs for graduate education.



7. Small Group Reports

Area III: **Resources**, reporter, Roger Wilson. Stated Issue as “MORE”.

Identified the following student needs

- for a Graduate Student Council, to express/voice graduate student needs
- For physical space for graduate students: social, recreational spaces
- For academic support services for graduate students, e.g., writing
- Suggest that may need to seek external funding to raise funds for the graduate student space

Identified the following issues for faculty in graduate programs

- Attention to faculty load when teaching at the graduate level; external accreditation in Education sets that at 3 courses as max load for graduate faculty
- For attention to an optimal size for graduate classes (30 is too many)
- Need to stay current in research: issues of when to do it
- Attention to qualifications required to teach graduate courses

Other Issues:

- More funding for graduate assistantships and graduate scholarships
- Review adequacy of library resources for all graduate programs
- Diversity: need more assistance and funds to recruit diverse students including international students

Area II: **Relationships with Publics**, reporter, Jeff Ray

Asked the following questions:

Who are the publics for graduate education?

- Students: need assessment and outcome data on students; quality, why they come
- Deans: make decisions about allocation of faculty and other resources
- Executive Staff: make decisions about priorities and resources across the institution
- Institutional Marketing: could provide more assistance at graduate level, including focus groups of graduate students, creating messages for graduate education
- Institutional Research: could help provide more data on graduate programs

What are the benefits of graduate education...the NEXT GVSU...

- what does graduate education add to the university?
- what role will it play in the future

Agreed that focus should be on the ‘internal’ publics

Key points: need to do more marketing,

- requires a better sense of ‘what the message is’, what graduate education means to/at GVSU...n
- Need to come up with a ‘story’ and a few constant points that all of us could express
- Graduate education is more diverse than undergrad; has higher percentage of ethnic minorities and international students

- Find out from international students why they come to GVSU, what attracts them

Area I: **Roles of Graduate Education** in University, reporter, Rachael Stern (Pew Student Services GA)

- Some discussion about how liberal education relates to graduate education
- Group did not discuss strategies 1, 2, 3, but focused on strategy 4: the representation of graduate students in the governance process

The consensus of the group was that graduate students need their own student governance body, rather than representation on the Student Senate which is focused on the needs of undergraduate, residential students.

Reasons given for a graduate student governance body include:

- Different culture
- More professional
- Need financing for different types of activities
- Need attention to environmental, social, cultural needs of students
- Need ways to communicate with other graduate students and to advise grad student reps on the Graduate Council
- Promote more 'student voice' and student involvement in use of the university resources

Expressed some cautions:

- because of the rapid 'turnover' of graduate students, there would need to be support for GC to maintain continuity of leadership of Graduate Student Senate
- Not sure where funds will come from, but feel there should be funds earmarked for graduate student issues and interests, not just undergrad

Council will return to these issues at future meetings.

October 8 meeting will be chaired by Roger Wilson (Cindy Coviak will be out of town)

Major agenda items will include:

- Provost on Strategic Planning
- Curriculum Review: everyone will review new course proposals for OT and PT (each member took a packet of these items); small groups of two took 3-4 course change proposals to review
- Group will divide up briefly after Provost leaves, to handle the recommendations for course changes,
- Full group will reconvene to review new course proposals and act on recommendations for course change proposals.
- Full group will discuss how to approach curriculum and other strategic plan and policy matters for future meetings (i.e., to break into smaller groups and meet as full group only when needed).

Meeting adjourned, 11:00 am.

October 1, 2004 Graduate Council meeting minutes approved on October 8, 2004.