

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

GRADUATE STUDIES COUNCIL
Minutes of 17 December 2009

Members present: Michele Behr, Louann Bierlein Palmer, Bruce Ferrin, Leigh Ford, Suzanne Hedstrom, Brandi Pritchett, Lewis Pyenson, Joel Raveloharimisy, Dave Reinhold, John Spitsbergen, Mark Wheeler. **Also present:** Marianne DiPierro and Julie Nemire, Graduate College; and Betty Dennis, associate dean, Extended University Programs. **Guests:** Donna Talbot, Educational Leadership, Research, and Technology; Lee deLisle, chair, Health, Physical Education and Recreation.

Council Chair Mark Wheeler called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

Procedural Items

Acceptance of the Agenda

Spitsbergen moved to accept the agenda; Ferrin seconded. The agenda was accepted.

Approval of the Minutes of 19 November

Hedstrom moved to approve the minutes; Spitsbergen seconded. The minutes were approved.

Discussion/Action Items

*Curriculum Proposal: Educational Leadership, Research, and Technology –
Graduate Certificate in Student Affairs and Higher Education
[COEHD-137 Revised]*

Donna Talbot presented the curriculum proposal on behalf of the department. The certificate is designed for people working in the field of Student Affairs who would like more of an academic background. Talbot reported that this is a national movement and other institutions are doing similar programs for staff that do not have academic training in the field. Nemire suggested some changes in wording to the catalog copy to clarify that the program is designed for people who are employed full time. Hedstrom moved to accept the proposal; Bierlein Palmer seconded. The proposal was approved.

*Curriculum Proposal: Health, Physical Education and Recreation – Master of Arts
in Sports Management [COE0000104]*

Lee deLisle presented the proposal on behalf of the department. This is a revision to the program currently called Sports Management which used to be in Physical Education but is migrating away from that. In some institutions this kind of

program is in the school of business. The proposal includes name changes for a few courses and elimination of electives. The newly revised program will also require the student to complete a thesis or a 3 credit independent research with an internship. There are no new classes being proposed. The director of the program has left and council members expressed some concerns about leadership. Ferrin passed out a handout comparing courses from the business school and the ones in the HPER program. Ferrin suggested removing the 6620, 6640, 6650, 6660 classes and moving those students into the corresponding classes at HCOB, and there would still be over 50% in HPER which is what the accrediting body requires. Ferrin suggested there could be a Sports Management track in the MBA program. The council agreed that the proposal should not be held up since the courses in question were not new courses in the HPER program. Wheeler encouraged deLisle to work with HCOB on this to coordinate classes and reduce duplication where possible. Nemire suggested changes to proposed catalog copy to clarify that applicants must meet University graduate admission standards. Bierlein Palmer moved to approve the proposal with the amendments from Nemire; Raveloharsimy seconded. 10 votes in favor, one opposed. The proposal was approved.

Doctoral Residency Requirements

GSC had previously requested to drop the University-wide residency requirement with the understanding that departments who wanted to add it back could do so. The Faculty Senate Executive Board was concerned that this could make things overly complicated, and there was a question about how many departments would need to have the requirement put back in if it was removed across the board. Julie Nemire from the Graduate College contacted departments to ask which departments would like to keep the requirement. At least nine programs indicated they would request to have it put back for their departments. It appears then that making this one change would force many proposals to come in to change it back. Wheeler suggests GSC do nothing on this issue and communicate to departments that if they want to make a change to the current requirement they can make a proposal. Departments should make their own decisions on this issue and bring a proposal to GSC if they wish. The current graduate policy says departments can opt out of the requirement, yet some council members noted that more departments wanted it removed than those that wanted it in place. The requirement may be a hindrance to students enrolling because it may appear that they would have to come to campus and possibly take a leave of absence from their job. When these restrictions were put in place it was much more difficult to use library resources remotely and communicate with advisors if a student was not on campus. If we removed the requirement we would have to allow departments a year to put them back. Ford moved to remove the current University residency requirement and to allow each department to make this regulation most appropriate for their needs if they so choose, and for this change to take effect one year from adoption by the University; Bierlein Palmer seconded. 10 votes in favor, one abstention. The proposal was approved.

Informational Items

Report of the Graduate Dean

- Pyenson reported that 49 doctorates would be awarded at the December graduation. This is one short of half way to the 100 mark which is Pyenson's goal.
- Graduate applications are up over last year.
- The deans are working to incorporate comments collected over the past several months into the Academic Affair Strategic Plan document

Report of the Provost

Reinhold reported on behalf of the provost. He reiterated the progress being made by the deans on the strategic plan.

Report of the Council Chair

Wheeler thanked GSC members who worked on our comments and revisions to the strategic plan.

Report from the Graduate Student Advisory Committee

Pritchett reported that the current issue of the Hilltop review is completed. It is available on line and the hard copy will be out in January 2010. The deadline for the call for articles for the spring issue is February 1.

GSAC will be sponsoring a "Late Night Snack with GSAC" on January 12 at 9 p.m. in the Bernhard Center. The committee is hoping the late evening time will be more convenient to graduate students.

Pyenson congratulated GSAC for publication of the Hilltop Review. He feels the quality is comparable to other top journals in professional fields and reflects highly on GSAC and the quality of WMU graduate students.

Adjournment

Bierlein Palmer moved to adjourn; Pritchett seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:14 p.m.

Michele Behr