

WVU Graduate Council Meeting
Thursday, March 9, 2006 (3:00 – 5:00)
Andrews Conference Room – Engineering Sciences Building

Name	Unit	Members Participating
Dailey, Robert	Ag, Forestry, & CS – Animal Science	
Bryan, William	Ag, Forestry, & CS - Plant & Soil Science	
Zdatny, Steve	A&S – History	
Plein, Christopher	A&S - Public Admin.	X
Flores, Jorge	A&S – Biology	X
Warner, Timothy	A&S – Geology & Geography	
Balvers, Ronald	B&E – Economics & Finance	X
Milian, Linda	CCA – Theater	X
Callery, Patrick	Pharmacy	
Berrebi, Albert	HSC/Otolaryngology	X
Aminian, Kashy	Engineering – Petroleum and Natural Gas	
Iskander, Wafik	Engineering – Industrial & Management Systems	X
Abbott, Judy	HR&E – Ed Theory & Practice	X
Walls, Richard	HR&E - Research & Training Center	
Hawkins, Andrew	PE – Physical Ed. & Sports Studies	X
Lee, Sammy	Journalism	
Ex-officio		
Torsney, Cheryl	Associate Provost/English	X
Stitzel, Robert	Graduate Education/HSC	X
Lang, Gerald	Provost	
Saba, Tom	HSC - Research & Graduate Studies	
Minnear, Fred	HSC - Research & Graduate Studies	X
Hornak, Larry	CEMR - CSEE	X

MINUTES

UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING

March 9, 2006

Andrews Conference Room, ESB

(3:00 – 5:00)

ATTENDANCE

Voting Members: Jorge Flores, Christopher Plein, Ron Balvers, Linda Milian, Andrew Hawkins, Wafik Iskander, Judy Abbott, Al Berrebi

Ex-officio Members: Fred Minnear, Robert Stitzel, Cheryl Torsney, Larry Hornak

Approval of the Minutes of 02/09/06

Minutes were approved following minor changes in wording and punctuation.

Integration of Graduate Council and Faculty Senate—Larry Hornak

Dr. Hornak shared a handout concerning the “Final Report and Recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee on Senate Organization for Research and Graduate Education Engagement.” Dr. Hawkins opened the floor to suggestions concerning the handling of these recommendations. Suggestions put forth included: 1) Appoint a Graduate Council Chair-elect; 2) Create a sub-committee with a chair who would be a member of selected Senate committees for a three-year term; and 3) Change the Senate Curriculum Committee structure. The by-laws will need to be amended if any of these recommendations are adopted. Dr. Stitzel will send the present By-laws to Council members via e-mail. It was agreed and approved to begin the process.

Assessment—Cheryl Torsney

Assessment is considered a straight forward process consisting primarily of four steps:

- 1) What do you want the students to know after graduation?
- 2) How can you measure this?
- 3) Do the measuring!
- 4) Use the information to improve what you do in the classroom!

Goals should be broadly stated and general; objectives should be faculty oriented; and learning outcomes should be focused on what the student knows. For example, “Graduates of this program will be able to:” Each program must have direct assessment (e.g., “What happens in the course?”). Each program must also have indirect assessment (e.g., conducts student surveys, exit interviews, etc.).

Dr. Torsney shared a copy of the SIU Edwardsville Graduate Assessment document. A dissertation rubric was included in that handout. Programs should communicate to the Provost's Office what they want students to know.

Dr. Torsney discussed the visit of Assessment Specialist Barbara Walvoord. Our goal is to close the loop and gear student learning to our satisfaction by making course corrections. Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) can be general and written to specific subspecialties. Every institution must have a coherent, consistent set of outcomes for assessment. These take time to create and sometimes this work creates friction. However each program should be asking:

- 1) Do we have SLOs?
- 2) How are they processed?
- 3) How is the information used?

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) will be looking for data, so programs can't just rely on tests, exams, and quizzes. This information should be included in the five year program reviews. Rules and help should be available while programs are completing their self-studies. It is necessary to clarify to the departments that they will not have five more years to complete their assessment plan. Resources available for program use include the Assessment Council, Dr. Torsney, and the Department Chairs.

Dr. Hawkins made a motion and Linda Milian seconded the motion that: "If there are no SLOs, no data, no reflection, and no use of assessment in the self-study, then the degree program must provide a 1 year follow-up report." Motion carried.

Animal and Veterinary Sciences—Wafik Iskander

Dr. Paul Lewis wrote the college's review and Wafik Iskander presented the material. Question 6 (Assessment) was considered to be incomplete. This report was tabled to permit a general discussion of what questions should be asked of all programs concerning assessment. The report was then removed from the table. Dr. Hawkins then moved to approve the M.S. in Animal and Veterinary Sciences for 5 years, as long as all other aspects of the review are positive. Approval is contingent upon the receipt of a one year follow-up report with an explanation of their assessment plan. Dr. Plein seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ed.D. in Education—Andrew Hawkins

The Ed.D. in Education includes majors in curriculum and instruction, educational leadership, and special education. Educational leadership has adopted and put in place an assessment plan. Special education has a major as well as areas of specializations. In addition, there are two additional majors presently on moratorium: Educational psychology and technology education. The Ed.D. has a lot of part-time students, but still seems to have an increasing market demand. It appears to take a long time for their students to graduate, and they are only graduating approximately 40% of those who are admitted. The department had an upsurge of faculty in the 1970s. However, many of these faculty have now retired. The Ed.D. program has collected data from student surveys, but no data concerning

student learning outcomes. The Ed.D. seems to be in a transitional phase and needs to establish benchmarks to measure learning outcomes.

Discussion ensued concerning three on-going faculty searches as well as hiring projections within this department. Dr. Hawkins will do a follow-up report focusing on student enrollment and graduates. Some students felt that there was a lack of opportunity to do research and scholarly writing. New hires may change this perception. This unit presently has three tenured or tenure track faculty, four visiting faculty, and two retirees constituting their faculty. WVU and Marshall both have this program.

Dr. Bryan and Dr. Berrebi moved to continue the Ed.D. programs (educational leadership, curriculum & instruction, and special education) at their present level of activity for five years without restriction. The college administration is encouraged to continue recruitment of high quality faculty with active records of scholarship and who have a capacity for attracting extramural funding. The program also needs to recruit high quality doctoral students with a national, not just regional, orientation. Finally, a column needs to be added to their data table that explains why students appear to be leaving the program before graduating.

Motion carried.

Old Business

None

New Business

Adjourn

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 13, 2006, Bluestone Room, Mt. Lair, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.