

MINUTES

UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING

March 10, 2005

Andrews Conference Center, Engineering Science Building – Room 115

ATTENDANCE

Voting Members: Brett Kenney, Keith Inskeep, Timothy Sweet, Christopher Plein, Jorge Flores, Ronald Balvers, Linda Milian, Patrick Callery, Albert Berrebi, Kashy Aminian, Wafik Iskander, Andrew Hawkins

Ex-officio Members: Chris Wilkinson, Tom Saba, Fred Minnear, Robert Stitzel, Cheryl Torsney

Guests: Ivan Pinnell, Maryanne Reed, Archie Sader, Peter Schaeffer, Dennis Smith

MINUTES

Minutes from the February 10, 2005 meeting were approved.

BOG Review of IMC Certificate Program and MS in IMC Program—Maryanne Reed, Ivan Pinnell, Archie Sader

Representatives from the School of Journalism were invited to clarify several issues, including a need to address the importance of maintaining both a certificate and a M.S. in Integrated Marketing Communications. Archie Sader noted that the IMC program was launched 4 years ago and that as of 2 1/2 years ago 30% of those who earned the IMC Certificate then wanted to enroll in the MS program. In Fall 2003 seventeen new students entered the IMC program and all were in the MS Program. The certificate is particularly used by Journalism as a promotion and recruiting tool and, therefore, they do not want to drop it. They currently have 30 applicants for the IMC programs, but believe they will have 100 by the start of the 2005 fall term. The certificate program is essentially designed for extended learning students. The entire MS Program is provided on-line. Journalism neither anticipates nor do they want mass enrollment. Given the uses that each IMC program serves, Chris Wilkinson moved to approve continuation of the two programs at their present level of activity. Chris Plein seconded. Motion carried.

BOG Review of MS in Journalism—Maryanne Reed

The previous discussion of this degree program had been tabled at the February Council meeting until Interim Dean Maryanne Reed could meet with Council. A new table describing the 5-year master's enrollment was submitted and discussed in order to clarify some metrics issues. The new table was accepted. Andrew Hawkins made a motion to approve the report of the M.S. in Journalism as revised and recommended continuation of the M.S. in Journalism at its present level of activity. The motion was seconded and carried.

BOG Review

Request for a Program Name Change—Dennis Smith, Peter Schaeffer

The Davis College is requesting that the name of their Ph.D. in Natural Resource Economics be changed to a Ph.D. in Resource Management and Sustainable Development. Dr.

Schaeffer noted that the program is 13 years old, and that this request reflects the broadening of the program and more clearly describes the program's current content. The program is interdisciplinary in nature and draws upon information from the natural and social sciences in addition to that from mainstream economics. This graduate degree particularly appeals to individuals who are already working professionals. The requested name change only affects the degree name and does not require the renaming of an academic program, department, or course prefix.

The new degree differs from the present Ph.D. in that it offers three new Areas of Emphasis, thus allowing for a greater part of the course work to be from disciplines other than Agricultural and Resource Economics or Economics. The new options, while reflecting broader issues, are still related to resource management. A required Teaching Practicum also will be added to the coursework core. The revised degree, now being built around a common core, will ensure that the graduates have strong research skills. During the next BOG 5-year review, each area of emphasis also will be evaluated.

Following additional extended discussion, it was decided to ask Dr. Smith to continue the discussion at the April Graduate Council meeting.

BOG Review of the Graduate Certificate in Gerontology—Linda Milian

Dr. Milian noted that the data table is missing the column for Number of New Enrollees. It was further noted that the program needed to use better assessment tools; marketing issues also exist. She indicated that Gerontology is developing a new database to better address recruitment, retention, evaluation of outreach methodology, and teaching effectiveness. The program has a lot of potential working with the Center on Aging. Council members felt that there is need for some revision of the report as presented. Dr. Milian will work on the table with the department and send the new report electronically to Dr. Stitzel. Andrew Hawkins moved to continue this certificate at its present level of activity and to approve the revised report with the stipulation that the revisions follow the guidelines suggested by Council. Motion carried.

BOG Review of the MFA in Creative Writing—Chris Wilkinson

There are seven full-time faculty in this program and they are highly dedicated to its success. The faculty provides summer workshops that permit the teaching of small sections along with opportunities for students to interact with faculty members individually. Evaluations show that students want more opportunities to teach creative writing to undergraduates, a greater variety of course offerings, and the establishment of a literary journal.

Due to fiscal constraints, the English department will continue to maintain the size of its current MFA enrollment by admitting only six to eight students each year. However, future enrollment numbers could decrease due to the limited number of available graduate teaching assistants, limited financial aid, and competition from other institutions' programs. Admission requirements are quite vigorous and include evaluation of an applicant's undergraduate GPA, performance on GRE (verbal and analytic scores), quality of a substantial writing sample, three letters of recommendation, and a statement of purpose.

The Graduate Council recommended continuation of the MFA in Creative Writing at the current level of activity. Tim Sweet moved to approve the report with minor revisions. Al Berrebi seconded. Motion carried.

BOG Review of the MA in English—Chris Wilkinson

Nationally, there are more graduates than professional opportunities in the field of English. Of the WVU MA graduates over the past five years all have either been admitted to doctoral or MFA programs or have found employment in their fields of study. This shows that in a highly competitive

field WVU master's graduates have a job success rate that is quite extraordinary.

Andrew Hawkins made a motion to continue the program at its present level of activity. Keith Inskeep seconded. Motion carried.

BOG Review of the PhD in English—Chris Wilkinson

An important aspect of this program's doctoral candidate accomplishments is that it supplies graduate assistants for the university's teaching and research missions. Teaching assistants provide approximately 49% of all of the English departments instruction. Of WVU doctoral graduates about one-third obtain employment in their fields of study. Since it often takes 8-10 years to complete the doctoral program, it is not surprising that the attrition rate is almost 50%, a value that is comparable to national statistics in this field.

Dr. Iskander moved to approve the report with minor revisions and recommended the Ph.D. in English for continuation at its present level of activity. Chris Plein seconded. Motion carried.

BOG Review of the MS in Dental Specialties and the DDS in Dentistry—Pat Callery

These are both professional degree programs. Two separate documents were submitted. The self-study showed a clear-cut need for the DDS. DDS students, through an Oral Health Center, supply education, service, and research activities to the general population. These activities contribute to the improvement of the dental health of the people of West Virginia. Patient referrals to the School of Dentistry are received from throughout the state and region.

The program's assessment plan is impressive. During their most recent professional accreditation review, the DDS and Dental Specialties degrees met or exceeded all standards established by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation Standards as well as the Standards for Advanced Specialty Education Programs.

Plans for improvement of the Dental Specialties degree include the establishment of a Mock Board of Examination for enrollees in the M.S. in Endodontics. An outcomes assessment questionnaire is being developed that will help formalize alumni feedback. The DDS faculty will be conducting and refining their formal system of quality assurance, as well as continuing to improve their development of outcomes that measure the achievement of their goals.

Both programs were recommended for continuation at their present levels of activity. Ron Balvers moved and Wafik Iskander seconded approval of the M.S. in Dental Specialties. Motion carried.

Al Berrebi moved to approve the DDS degree subsequent to changing the table to a format that more closely matched all other review tables. Ron Balvers seconded. Motion carried.

BOG Review of the MA in Foreign Languages—Tim Sweet

Council felt that there was a basic mismatch between the expertise of most of the faculty members and the fields in which most students concentrate their graduate studies. GTAs are teaching virtually all of the introductory courses. It should be noted that the majority of students concentrate in TESOL, Linguistics, or Spanish. Council recommends that the M.A. be refocused to minimize literary studies and to develop a specialization in the teaching of languages, including, but not limited to, TESOL.

Student learning is assessed through performance in coursework and through a comprehensive examination that is based on standardized reading lists for each concentration. A thesis option is offered in addition to the non-thesis 36 hour required coursework masters. No formal mechanisms are currently in place that measure program achievements or progress assessment. The only feedback for program assessment presently is from alumni who respond after receiving the annual newsletter.

It is recommended that a report on a new comprehensive assessment plan be prepared. An interim and follow-up report on curriculum revision should begin immediately. In the Graduate Council's view 2005 must be a year of curriculum planning and by 2006 the refocused plan must be in place.

BOG Review of the MD in Medicine—Fred Minnear

The West Virginia University School of Medicine is accredited through the Liaison Committee for Medical Education (LCME). The school's Education Curriculum Committee is comprised of faculty while the Associate Dean for Medical Education administers the medical curriculum. Students, faculty, and administration can directly apprise the committee of any identifiable problems in the curriculum. The Academic and Professional Standards Committee carefully review student progress throughout the four years. At the end of the second year WVU students must pass Step 1 of the USMLE before being promoted to year 3 and must repeat a year if they fail the test. The many strengths of the MD program are listed in the document produced during the most recent LCME visitation.

An area that should be considered for improvement is the need for expansion of the number of sites available for rural healthcare training. Another area of concern is the low level of faculty research activity in both the basic and clinical sciences, although the research enterprise has been strengthened considerably by the recent development of a Strategic Research Plan. This plan supports the hiring of 35 faculty in the next five years, the retention of existing faculty, and the stabilization and improvement of research core facilities. The recent funding of two institutes and the Clinical Trials Research Unit also will support future research efforts. Implementation of the new Teaching Scholars Program has begun to address the sustainability of faculty instructional development for the long term. A new curriculum has been developed for Years 1 and 2 and a new course introduces students to patient care early in their training. Medical students now are spending more time in small group, student-centered learning activities rather than in formal lectures. The MD program seeks to admit a diverse student population.

Dr. Wafik Iskander moved to approve continuation of the MD degree at its present level of activity. Dr. Callery seconded. Motion carried.

Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)—Al Berrebi

Dr. Berrebi reported on the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN). There are three areas for advanced practice nurses: Family Nurse Practitioner, Neonatal Nurse Practitioner, and Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. The requirements are 44 hours regular, 20 specialty area hours, and a three month rural practicum. There is also a capstone portion. The program was granted regular, full accreditation in 1999 for ten years by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). There was a Continuous Improvement Progress Report covering the first five years of accreditation and no deficiencies were noted. The MSN program administration provided complete responses to each specific item required and concluded that the program was in compliance. The report discusses in detail more than 20 specific issues regarding implementation and evaluation grouped into four global standards: 1) Mission and Governance, 2) Institutional Commitment and Resources, 3) Curriculum and Teaching-Learning Practices, and 4) Student Performance and Faculty Accomplishments.

There were concerns that the table was unclear on issues of Program Assessment. There were no specific plans for improvement of quality and productivity in the MSN Program in the self-study report.

Motion was made by Andrew Hawkins to accept the report with minor revisions. Jorge Flores seconded.

The MSN Program is asking for Program of Excellence. The program was fully accredited for

ten years by a national certifying body for graduate programs in Nursing. They were recognized for the first time with a tied ranking of 75 in the 2003 *US News and World Report*. The MSN Program is funded by the US Department of Health and Human Services to provide tuition and stipend support for 8-10 students per year. They have a 30 year history and its graduates are consistently employed (24-40% of our workforce) in the front lines of direct care practice in the rural sites, schools of nursing, and other leadership position across the state. They offer indirect service to our state. There are 21 graduate faculty (12 regular and 9 associate members) all holding terminal degrees. They are consistently publishing papers, in peer-reviewed journals. Numerous faculty are widely recognized at the state and national levels for their scholarly accomplishments.

It was moved by Chris Plein to accept the request for Program of Excellence and seconded by Ronald Balvers with the addition of a sentence recommending Program of Excellence.

Programs of Excellence

A number of degree programs sought and were evaluated for designation as Programs of Excellence. The four criteria established by the BOG for such a designation have been used as guidelines. The programs that received this recognition were: M.S. in Nursing; PhD. in Psychology, M.S. in Speech Pathology and Audiology; M.S. in Counseling; M.S. in Rehabilitation Counseling; and the Pharm. D. degree in Pharmacy.

For Information **Basic Science Curriculum Changes—Cheryl Torsney**

Dr. Torsney informed Council members that program curriculum changes do not need to go to the Senate Curriculum Committee or the BOG. Program name changes, however, must go to the BOG and then to the HEPC.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjourn