

MINUTES GRADUATE COMMITTEE

April 25, 2006

Members Present:

Nancy Tate

Michael Rettig

Bob Boncella

Shirley Gorman

Mark Kaufman

Willie Dunlap

Jay Memmott

Shirley Dinkel

David Feinmark

Nancy welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming.

NEW BUSINESS

The proposal for a dual JD/MSW degree was distributed and discussed. The School of Law has approved it. There will not be any changes to the programs, just saving tuition dollars. There is a 9 hour overlap of the two programs. Washburn usually waives 6-9 hours for a student when transferring in from an accredited school. This dual program should be a real attraction for students. It would save them time and money. The Social Work department is anticipating between 5-6 students each year. The student will be identified as a dual degree student so that the instructor can work with each. This will ensure that each student will possess the knowledge, values and skills needed for the completion of degree. Nancy informed the committee that this discussion will serve as the first reading and will then go to the Faculty Senate as a second reading. If passed at that level, it will go to the General Faculty and then to the WU Board of Regents. The members in attendance voted to 7 to 1 to approve. Since several members were not in attendance, Nancy will e-mail them requesting a vote by Thursday. She will also notify Mike Russell that this needs to be on the agenda for faculty senate and that documentation will be forthcoming.

Second Masters in Education: Question was raised as to whether there is a university policy stating that a person could not earn two masters degrees. The department of Education would like to be able to offer students the opportunity to earn a second Masters in Education degree, each would have a different emphasis so the core course would be the same, however the specialized courses would be different. The student would not need to be re-admitted, and would do a capstone for each degree. There could potentially be some overlap and the time limit may cause some slight problems with a few students. However, being able to offer a second Masters degree seems like it will benefit everyone. Nancy will research the policy.

Along that same line, it was suggested each Masters program has courses that will benefit students in Masters other programs. Departments were urged to review these courses as potential elective courses for their graduate students.

Electronic Graduate Theses: A suggestion was made to ask the graduate students to submit an electronic version of their thesis to the library for storage. Currently the library receives three bound copies. The document would be placed on a secure server where it would be searchable and registered in the national catalog database. A suggestion was made to place the document in Acrobat format so that it cannot be copied. Everyone agreed this seems like a good idea so David will research it further.

PROGRAM UPDATE

Education: NCATE will do a follow-up site visit this next Fall semester. Also, the department is checking to see if there would be a market to offer a generic Masters of education degree. Question was raised – Would this be in conflict with the MLS program?

Criminal Justice: In the process of getting credentialed from the Academy of Criminal Justice and Science. A visit from the accreditation team will take place next Spring.

Social Work: They have received a record number of applications (90-100) again. They have invited 80 students to the program.

Business: The AACSB site team has made a positive recommendation for the School of Business to become accredited. A function to announce this is on May 2 at 5:30pm at the BTC. They will unveil a new slogan: "A Degree with a Difference."

Nursing: This is the first year for the MSN program. It is going very well. They are recruiting heavily and in the process of proposing to add two new courses. The first site visit is scheduled for September, 2006.

One question was raised in regard to graduate admission. If a student sits out a semester, why do they have to re-apply for admission? Nancy will check into it.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.