Graduate Council Meeting

28 October 2010

Present: J. Newkirk, M. Fitch, B. McMillin, R. Landers, V. Allada, G. Hilmas, S.N. Balakrishnan, R. Dubois, P. Worsey, R. Stephenson, N. Grasman

Minutes approved (Bala/Landers) with minor spelling/grammar changes.

Dual Enrollment Referral from Graduate Faculty Meeting. Catalog description of undergraduate eligibility is two semesters if in honors program and one semester otherwise. Allada noted that departments have honors programs. Campus also has/had an honors program, which is not the honors being referenced in the catalog. A question was raised on the meaning of final semester. Worsey pointed out that limited class offerings mean that a student with little remaining coursework may have holes during last two semesters while waiting for classes to be offered; dual enrollment for such a student could create an opportunity.

McMillin/Bala: motion to change eligibility (motion for Graduate Faculty) **“Students are eligible to dual enroll when they have obtained senior status, with a minimum GPA of 3.5 if two semesters remain, 3.0 if in their final semester”**, which is not a change in GPA requirements. Discussion followed on students entering with large amounts of transfer credit, student might be three semesters away from graduation but be a senior. Hilmas suggested to instead use two semesters from graduation. Worsey prefers ‘one year’, to avoid counting summer semester as one of the two semesters. Question on fee paid – general impression is that a dual enrolled student pays grad fee for grad credit, Allada will check. Stephenson opined that we should consider accepting dual credit for 3-6 hours, allowed at some schools. Friendly amendment proposed: GPA to be 3.0 as the minimum regardless of semesters remaining. Not accepted, desire for further discussion. Allada suggested adding a line “For any special cases, the graduate office should be consulted.” No motion. Motion (in bold above) passed, 6-4.

Landers suggested a motion could be made to address the number of semesters from graduation. No motion followed.

GRE Waiver for holders of a S&T Bachelors Degree: VP Allada appreciates the discussion from last time and will continue to inform students that waiving the GRE remains a departmental decision.

Stipend X VPGS Allada relayed that the Chancellor and Provost are amenable to the idea that GRA salary be adjustable rather than fixed at Stipend X. The Chancellor asked for a solution to be presented. Motion (Stephenson/Worsey): **Form a special committee of grad council to study Stipend X, including Carol Headinghouse for budget implications.**  Approved. The Chair asked for nominations. Newkirk, Landers, McMillin, Allada, and Huebner were nominated. The Chair asked for further nominations to be sent to him. The committee interim reports/information are to be sent to Grad Council as created. Allada asked that the committee make a presentation to the Chancellor by mid-Spring semester.

I-20 Bala feels the projected cost of living in Rolla listed for graduate students are overly high. A copy of the International Affairs office Funding Calculator form is attached below. Bala suggests removing “personal needs”, now listed at a bit more than $5k per year. This would lower the Student I-20 expenses to roughly $23K from current $28,202. Motion to “**Request Financial Aid to look into the estimates of cost of living for graduate students with a report to the Graduate Council, notably on the “Personal Needs” amount**”. (Bala/Dubois) Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 2 p.m..

Next meeting Nov 8 at 3 pm in St. Pats of Havener.

Appended – form referenced during discussion of graduate student cost of living:

