**Graduate Council**

**Minutes**

**March 9, 2012**

The Graduate Council met Friday, March 9, 2012 at 1:00 pm in the Cardinal Room of the University Center.

Members present: R. Adams, J. Byrd, L. Comer, K. Cooper-Duffy, K. Greysen, B. Kloeppel, Karen Lunnen, A. Malesky, P. Robertson, and L. Wright

Members absent: R. Carton, L. DeWald, G. Graham, S. Ha, S. Higgins, K. Topolka-Jorissen, D. Sally, J. Shirley, and S. Swanger

Others present: E. Frazier, B. Tyson Lofquist, L. Parlett, and C. Coburn

**Announcements** The announcements were distributed as an electronic handout for the meeting. A tour of the new Biltmore Park facility has been scheduled for Friday, March 16 at 1:30.

**Approval of the Minutes** Motion and second to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2012 meeting. Motion passed.

**Standing Committee Reports**

**Graduate Faculty Review**

The following persons were approved by the Graduate Faculty Review Committee as members of the graduate faculty and came as aseconded motion for approval.

Lori Caudle Human Services Associate

**Motion passed.**

For the Jana Ulrich nomination, there were two committee members who supported the nomination and voted to recommend associate status to the full council.  Two other members felt the need to have further information about the nominee's research work, or the connection between administrative experience and the nominee's ability to assist the research of this particular student, given the seeming paucity of related research and/or teaching.  A fuller description of the relevant expertise and/or the role for this particular student's research may provide fuller confidence.  The committee recommends seeking further information regarding this candidate's qualifications for this specific role, and the Graduate Council agreed with the recommendation.

**Curriculum Review**

The following curriculum items were reviewed by the Curriculum Committee and came as aseconded motion.

**AA-6:**

**Doctorate of Physical Therapy**

This is the first year of a new DPT curriculum. We have made a number of fairly minor changes including changing

the title of our series of 4 research courses (PT 841, 842, 843 and 844) to more accurately reflect the content to those

outside the profession; increasing the credit hours assigned to PT 843 and PT 844, the research courses taught during

the second year to reflect course demands more realistically; changing the allocation of contact hours (lecture and

lab) for one course (PT 813); and making a few editorial corrections to course descriptions in the on-line Graduate

Catalog.

A more significant change is the addition of a course in the summer: PT 826, Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Physical

Therapy. We have to recruit an adjunct faculty person with the necessary credentials to teach the cardiovascular and

pulmonary content in our program. The proposal to establish the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree included the

addition of a 9 month tenure-track faculty member with expertise in cardiovascular and pulmonary physical therapy.

We had to end the search for this faculty person with budget cuts and must now return to using an adjunct faculty

member. Faculty members with the necessary credentials are very difficult to find, but the faculty member at the

Medical University of South Carolina who taught this content in our Master of Physical Therapy program is willing to

continue with the new DPT curriculum. He is only available during the summer session. Therefore, we had to create

a course in the summer.

**Master of Arts in English**

Adding three new graduate literature courses – Environmental Literature (ENGL 663), Southern

Literature (ENGL 659), and Modernism (ENGL 675) -- to better reflect the strengths of the faculty

and the evolving nature of the field. I am also moving English 694 from out of the literature course

offerings into the rhetoric and composition course offerings; it’s a rhetoric/composition course, and

its placement in the literature category is an error.

**Master of Arts Education English Concentration**

Adding one new graduate literature course – Environmental Literature (ENGL 663) -- to better

reflect the strengths of the faculty and the evolving nature of the field. Other new literature courses

will be electives in various literature areas.

**Master of Arts in Teaching English Concentration**

Adding one new graduate literature course – Environmental Literature (ENGL 663) -- to better

reflect the strengths of the faculty and the evolving nature of the field. Other new literature courses

will be electives in various literature areas.

**Masters of Project Management**

In the link: <http://catalog.wcu.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=26&poid=2934&returnto=485> It says that

"After admission to the program, the following course prerequisites (or their equivalents) must be satisfactorily

completed for admission to PM 650 - Fundamentals of Project Management:"Change to “After admission into the

program, the following prerequisite courses may be recommended before enrolling in PM 650: Fundamentals of Project

Management." Reason for change: Prerequisite courses may or may not be recommended, depending upon the Program

Director’s evaluation/discretion.

**AA-5:**

**PT 826 Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Physical Therapy (2)**

**ENGL 659 Southern Literature (3)**

**ENGL 663 Environmental Literature (3)**

**ENGL 675 Modernism (3)**

**MUS 689 Internship in Secondary Education (Music) (3,6,9, R12)**

**Motion passed.**

The following curriculum item is on hold so the Curriculum Committee can seek additional information and clarification from the program and department. This curriculum item will be reviewed and submitted for a vote at the April 13 Graduate Council meeting.

**AA-6:**

**Post-baccalaureate Certificate in Music Education**

The School of Music proposes a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Music Education, leading to a recommendation for

initial North Carolina K-12 teaching licensure in music. Students who complete this certificate may subsequently

apply for admission to the MAEd degree program. Graduate-level coursework for this certificate may be applied to

the MAEd, making it possible to complete the MAEd in only one additional year. The certificate program would

eventually replace the MAT in Music Education, once currently enrolled MAT students have graduated.

The School of Music now offers both the MAT and the MAEd. MAT graduates compete for jobs with our BM/BSEd

graduates, having advanced degrees but no more teaching experience. They also compete with our MAEd candidates,

having the same level of degree but less experience. Many of our MAT candidates are frustrated that the program

takes a full two years (not counting pre-requisites), when their primary focus is getting initial certification quickly.

The Post-Baccalaureate program would better meet the needs of students for whom this is a primary concern.

The other reason for the proposal is related to strengthening the MAEd program: both of our current degrees (MAT

and MAEd) are small and are subject to almost constant low-enrollment review. By designing a program that could

lead some highly motivated students into the MAEd program, we could potentially raise the numbers in the MAEd.

**Academic Program & Policy Review**

A proposal was presented that would increase the maximum course load registration limit per term for doctoral students from 15 credits to 19 credits per term.

There was discussion among Graduate Council members as to whether or not the maximum course load registration per term be increased to 19 credit hours for all graduate student and not just doctoral students.

The Graduate Council voted to approve the proposal as written to increase the maximum course load registration limit per term for doctoral students from 15 credits to 19 credits per term.

**Student Financial Aid**

The Chancellor’s Fellowship and Study Grant applications are available on the Graduate School website at[**http://www.wcu.edu/263.asp**](http://www.wcu.edu/263.asp)**.**The application deadline is April 15.

**Agenda Items**

The Graduate Council was asked by the APRC to discuss and provide feedback regarding a resolution currently under review by the APRC. The resolution is in support of adopting an A+ GPA grading system into the undergraduate grading scale at Western Carolina University. The APRC asked the Graduate Council to consider the following:

(1) Would Graduate Council support such a change of policy at the graduate level?

(2) Are there any opinions about whether the A+ grading scale would make WCU undergraduates more competitive applicants to graduate programs?

The Graduate Council stated in response that plus/minus grading is not supported at the graduate level.

Dr. Beth Tyson Lofquist spoke to the Graduate Council about the current Graduate School and Research structure which is up for discussion. Dr. Beth Tyson Lofquist requested input from the Graduate Council regarding any suggested changes the Graduate Council might propose to the current structure.

Dr. Beth Tyson Lofquist said that Chancellor Belcher had spoken to the Council of Deans in support of sponsored research and graduate programs at Western Carolina University. There was discussion at the Council of Deans about providing separate support for sponsored research and Graduate School by splitting the two units. The financial implications involved would require shifting existing resources.

Different models have been reviewed and discussed after millennial campus visits were made to UNC Charlotte, NC State and Kannapolis. The millennial committee is reviewing the millennial concept to determine what the structure should look like.

The Graduate Council was asked to consider the following and provide feedback:

* Who should manage and support the activities of sponsored research and the Graduate School?
* What are the roles of sponsored research and the Graduate School at Western Carolina University?
* What are the roles and responsibilities of the Graduate School and the colleges for management and oversight of graduate programs?
* When planning a forum to discuss the structure consider other models, look at the millennial initiative and discuss the issues with colleagues.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Submitted by – Elizabeth Frazier

Please note: All attachments are on file in the Graduate School with the Graduate Council meeting minutes.