Review:

The Graduate Studies Committee received a request by the Graduate School to review the WSU Graduate School Policies and Procedures Manual. Proposed changes to the Policies and Procedures Manual were detailed in a 9-page summary table provided by the Graduate School and attached to this review. Each proposed change includes a brief justification. In many cases, changes to the Policies and Procedures Manual reflect current practice within graduate programs. In other words, the changes to the Manual simply explain what programs are already doing. In addition, the purpose of many of the changes is to clarify language around policies and procedures (as opposed to changing those policies and procedures). Some language changes in regards to student rights and grievances were recommended by the Attorney General’s office.

The most substantive change is that professional degrees are reviewed by Academic Affairs, not the Graduate Studies Committee. Specifically, these degrees are Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.), Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.), and Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.). Graduation clearance for these degrees is performed by the Registrar’s Office, and program evaluation is conducted by external accreditation associations. This is not changed in the Policies and Procedures Manual. Graduate clearance and program evaluation for all other graduate programs is handled by the Graduate School. According to their website, Academic Affairs “On a continuous basis reviews and appraises educational policies and programs of Washington State University except those applying exclusively to graduate education.” A brief explanation would be helpful in understanding why Academic Affairs is reviewing these specific graduate programs.

Summary: Tom and Jon have reviewed and discussed the changes to the Manual. **We move to approve the changes to the Graduate School Policies and Procedures Manual as presented to the committee.**