Graduate Studies Committee
October 20, 2009

Members Present:	J. Beller, J. Cummings, W. Fassett , S. Fotopoulos , E. Hindman, D. Kim, M. Tsatsomeros, R. Hoskel
Members Absent	D. Barnstone
Members Excused:	W. Brown, B. Boyd
Graduate School Staff:	J. Merrill, D. Sellon, P. Sturko
Ex officio members:	
Guest:	

Announcement Items

Action Items

1. **Minutes** of the October 6, 2009 meeting were **approved.**
2. **Cources:**
   a. Biol/ES/RP 569: Approved
   b. BSysE 550: Table
   c. BSysE 557: Table
   d. BSysE 558: Table
   e. BSysE 564: Table
   f. BSysE 584: Table
   g. BSysE 585: Table
   h. BSysE 595: Table
   i. BSysE 596: Table
   j. C E 583/ BSysE 560: Table
   k. C E 585/BSysE 554: Approved
   l. CS 552: W/D
   m. EconS 534: Approved
   n. Engl/AmSt 515: W/D
   o. I D 700: Approved
   p. Math 533: Approved
   q. Nurs 529: Table
   r. Nurs 532: Approved
   s. Nurs 576: Table
   t. Soils/Stat/ES/RP/Geol 508: Table

Discussion Items

1. The committee discussed conjoint courses. The committee was in favor of adding the following information/questions to the GSC reference documents in regards to conjoint courses. In order for a conjoint course to be considered and to addressed by the Graduate Studies Committee, program personnel would need to develop a persuasive argument concerning the "rare instances" that a conjoint course is needed. Questions to consider relative to this argument:

    1. List the number of faculty in the degree granting area (dept/program area?)
    2. List the number of graduate courses listed on the books for the degree granting area (dept/program area?)
    3. How many courses are currently listed as conjoint in the degree granting area (dept/program area?)
    4. How often are these conjoint courses taught?
    5. How many of these courses are designed as graduate courses with a few undergrads enrolled? (versus designed as undergraduate with a few graduate students).
    6. Over the past 3 years, what percentage of courses on Graduate degree programs of study in this degree granting area (dept/program area?) are conjoint courses?
    7. Why is this particular course integral to the graduate program in this degree granting area (dept/program area?)
    8. How many overall students are in the degree area?
    9. Are there any department policies about the number of conjoint courses on a program of study?

It was moved and approved to move the conjoint courses discussion item an action item. It was moved and approved to add the information/questions to the GSC reference documents as a reference for reviewing conjoint courses.

2. The committee discussed the bylaws procedure. The bylaws will be reviewed by committee members. The Graduate School will provide information about what the bylaws should contain along with a check list.

3. The parental leave policy was presented. The Graduate School will fund up to four weeks of parental leave for students on appointments. If both parents are on assistantship they will split the four weeks of parental leave. The student and major advisor will submit an academic plan for the student. It was moved and approved to move the parental leave policy discussion item to an action item. As an action item the Parental Leave policy was moved and approved. The policy will be forwarded on to Faculty Senate as an information item.

4. The committee discussed the Graduate School certificate time to degree policy. The limit of six years has been added to the policy. . It was moved and approved to move the certificate time to degree discussion item to an action item. As an action item the certificate time to degree was moved and approved. The policy will be forwarded on to Faculty Senate as an information item.

The next GSC meeting is scheduled for 3:00, Tuesday, November 3, 2009.
Locations:
Pullman (Lighty 401)
Spokane (SHSB 210F)
Tri-Cities (BSEL 104)
Vancouver (VSSC 108)