

**Graduate Studies Committee
September 22, 2009**

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

Announcement Items

Action Items

1. **Minutes** of the April 14, 2009 meeting were **approved**.

Discussion Items

1. The committee discussed the GSC Reference documents
2. The committee discussed conjoint courses. They will be looking at a new policy regarding conjoint courses. Only in rare circumstances should departments request conjoint courses. J. Beller will be drafting a list of information the GSC will require from a department when requesting a conjoint course. Conjoint courses will be discussed at the next GSC meeting.
3. P. Sturko gave an update on continuous enrollment. The new continuous enrollment policy required that all degree-seeking graduate students maintain continuous enrollment, registering for a minimum of 2 graduate credits each semester (except summer) **or by registering for continuous enrollment status course (no credit) at a reduced tuition rate** from the time of first enrollment to degree completion. However, when the Graduate School attempted to implement the continuous enrollment status course that was officially approved, we encountered technical difficulties with the Administrative Information System that would require extensive programming to allow students to register for this non-credit course. Consequently, the Graduate School has revised its original plan for continuing enrollment status, and is working to implement a **Continuous Doctoral Status** for doctoral students that would require less programming and achieve similar results. As part of the revision, doctoral students who have successfully completed their coursework and their preliminary exams and who do not enroll for credit automatically will go into Continuous Doctoral Status and will be charged an administrative fee of \$50. Such students will have access to the libraries, their email and limited access to their faculty advisors. During their last semester they will be required to enroll for 2 credits to defend. Creating a status for doctoral students who have completed their preliminary exams so that we can monitor their progress from preliminary exam to final defense is strategically advantageous in light of our institutional priority to increase our doctoral degree completion rate.

The next GSC meeting is scheduled for 3:00, Tuesday, October 6, 2009.

Locations:

Pullman: Lighty 401

Spokane (SHSB 210F)

Tri-Cities (BSEL 104)

Vancouver (VSSC 108)