Graduate Council Minutes

October 17, 2011

Members Present: Gwendolyn Jones Harold (Chair), Richard Pearce-Moses, Craig Hill, Deborah Deckner, Patricia Smith, Greg McNamara, Mari Roberts, Tom McIlwain, Lynn Stover, Linda Nash and William Hong.

Members Not Present: Judith Ogden, Betty Lane, Celeste Wally-Jean, and Robert Vaughan

Meeting called to order by Dean Harold at 2:00 p.m.

Dean Harold asked Council members for any additions or modifications to the agenda. No additions or modifications to the agenda were requested.

Minutes from the September 12, 2011 Graduate Council meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes with a change to the terminal degree to D.N.P for Terri Summers was made by McIlwain, seconded by Nash, and approved by the Council.

Richard Pearce-Moses expressed concern regarding the number of grades below “C” allowed in a graduate degree program. Several Council members expressed concerns that allowing only grades of “A” or “B” to count toward a graduate degree could be problematic since we as an institution are still new to graduate education. Problems such as grade inflation or terminating potentially successful student could arise. There are a myriad of reasons why a successful student might earn a grade of “C” in a degree program. Additionally, faculty might not be ready to move to a policy where only grades of “A” and “B” are acceptable. The council members decided the various programs can implement higher grade requirements/stipulations, such as no grades of “C” are allowed.

Deborah Deckner presented information regarding the proposed Graduate Council/Faculty Senate relationship. There was no opposition from the Graduate Council regarding the information presented. She indicated the proposed changes would probably take effect spring 2012 as revisions to faculty senate would not take effect until a full faculty vote occurs.

A by-laws subcommittee was created to revise the current Graduate Council by-laws. The subcommittee is composed of Deborah Deckner (chair), Greg McNamara, Richard Pearce-Moses and Tom McIlwain. The committee will present a draft of the by-laws at the December Graduate Council meeting.

Dean Harold discussed the need to implement a policy/procedure for the replacement of elected Graduate Council members who must be absent for multiple consecutive meetings. The committee suggested the replacement of an elected Graduate Council member should be determined by a special election held within the individual’s home College. The replacement would serve for the duration of the individual’s leave of absence. The replacement would step down upon the individuals return to the institution. A motion to implement this replacement procedure was made by McIlwain, seconded by Nash, and approved by the Council.

The Council reviewed and acted on the graduate faculty applications listed below:

* Grace Nteff (D.N.P.), College of Health (Full Status) – recommendation to approve was made by Stover, seconded by McIlwain, and approved by the Council.
* Erika Blue (Ph.D.), College of Arts and Sciences (Full Status) – recommendation to approve was made by Deckner, seconded by Roberts, and approved by the Council.
* Patricia Smith (Ed. D.), College of Arts and Sciences (Full Status) – recommendation to approve was made by Pearce-Moses, seconded by McIlwain, and approved by the Council.

Meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Elizabeth Taylor