BSU Graduate Committee Meeting-MINUTES
January 22, 2009 1pm 314 Sattgast

Members Present: Louise Jackson, Tim Kroeger, Pat Welle, Dianne Narum, Richard Koch, Mark Christensen, Hal Gritzmacher, Vince Vohnout, Pat Rogers, Joan Miller

Members Absent: Jim White

I. Minutes of December 4, 2008: add Richard Koch to “members present” and Vince Vohnout to “members absent” list. Pat Welle (Hal Gritzmacher 2nd) moved to pass with corrections stated. Motion carried.

II. New Business
   A. Graduate Mini-Grants Second Call-Friday, Feb. 20, 2009 is the application deadline; award announcement will be March 6, 2009. Joan will have applications linked to the BSU Graduate Studies website and also notify graduate faculty and students within the next few days. Dianne Narum, Mark Christensen, and Hal Gritzmacher volunteered to be the reviewers.
   B. English Curriculum Modifications (copies at the meeting): undergrad curriculum changed; this proposal will bring graduate courses into alignment with the current curriculum. Clarification that the grad committee is the curriculum committee for 5000 and 6000 graduate level courses. A member questioned the use of the internship # whereby the dept elected to create their own # rather than the generic 6970 #. They opted to leave the university internship # for an alternative to the specific dept internship # as proposed. The dept wants the option to use the 6970 #. Consensus was that it’s a valid reason to use a separate internship dept #. Pat Welle (Dianne Narum 2nd) to accept proposal as presented. Motion carried. Dr. Jackson will notify Wendy Larson.
   C. Discussion of issues holding up MSPED program (tabled until next meeting) This topic is tabled till next meeting. Dr. Judy Olson will be invited to discuss.
   D. 50% courses at the 6000 level - where do we stand? (see attached)
It was clarified that student programs must consist of 50% grad courses at the 6000 level less thesis/grad research paper credits. This is a MnSCU policy that has been in effect for some time. Biology has submitted curriculum revisions adding a 6000 level course to their program and has reworked the other courses. It was submitted during the Fall of 2008 for review and approval.

Dr. Rogers suggested that departments look at providing a rotating schedule of their graduate courses so that students may plan out their program more effectively. If courses are only offered once per year, they may plan accordingly. To project when
courses would be offered would help both students and academic advisors. It was suggested that a disclaimer be added such as, “Subject to change,” or some such wording.

Continue discussion at the next meeting on the possible 2 year rotation plan. Think about a plan that could be used.

E. Research into how Grad Committees at other MnSCU schools maintain quality of research papers and theses. (see attached)

Continue discussion next time.

III. Old Business

A. Grad Committee Decision Making Structure
   1. Do research on the issue, including faculty in our departments and other MnSCU schools
   2. Have a full and serious discussion about the matter to ensure all members are heard
   3. Commit to talking to our departments about new policies to ensure that we have a wide response to proposals
   4. Don’t rush to decision

B. Re-visit the Grad Committee Proposal Decision from last meeting.

Will continue discussion of item II.E at our next meeting.

C. Develop a plan for taking the proposal to Faculty Senate in February.

D. Developing the new 5-Year Workplan

Minutes submitted by Joan Miller
1/22/2009