Graduate Council

GENERAL SESSION MINUTES
Wed, September 11, 2013
3:45 - 5:00 PM in 5255 Humanities

In Attendance: Steve Kantrowitz (Chair), Leslie Abadie, Jake Blanc, Shelly Chan, Brian Hamilton, Susan Johnson, Neil Kodesh, Faron Levesque, Marlina Polk McGiveron, Lee Palmer Wandel, Jane Williams, Naomi Williams

Meeting called to order at 3:45 PM.

I. Welcome and Introductions
   Introduction of new council members and new staff.

II. Approval of the May 1, 2013, General Session Minutes

III. Upcoming Events
   - Thu, 12 TA Diversity Training, 3:30-5:00 PM, Curti Lounge
   - Fri, 13 Fall Department Reception, 3:00-5:00 PM, Pyle Center
   - Fri, 20 TA Training, 3:30-4:30 PM, Curti Lounge
   - Fri, 27 TA Diversity Training II, 3:30-5:00 PM, Curti Lounge

IV. Committee Assignments and Election Results
   Steve discussed committees that were in need of faculty members on their committees. The Harassment committee requires two tenured professors from Graduate Council. The Joint Committee on Diversity, which Steve will be serving on. The Funding Committee also needs two faculty members, Lee Palmer Wandel and Shelly Chan will be serving on this committee.
   Leslie gave the results of the elections and notified the council that the second set of elections was closing at 4pm that afternoon and that the results would be shared in the next meeting.

V. Graduate School Changes to MA credit minimums
   Discussion of the change of the minimum credit hours for MA, UW previously require 24 credit hours for MA, there was a discussion about how to make up the difference of the six credit hour difference. Under discussion was the fact that Dissertator status is set at 32 credit hours, this will be discussed further in future meeting.

Next Graduate Council Meeting: Wednesday, October 9, 2013, 3:45-5:00 PM in 5255 Humanities
VI. **Graduate Program Student Body Updates**
Leslie discussed the statistics of the Graduate Program over the previous semesters. The US and European Fields are almost equal and the program is somewhat smaller than before. The number of students who are self-funding is decreasing.

Steve stated that at a future meeting there will be a discussion about the right size for the program.

VII. **Dissertation Embargo Update**
Graduate School moved dissertation to online submission, which is place on library server which has open access. To avoid having dissertations published on the library’s website, students must place an embargo on their dissertation. Considering the fact that History is a book driven discipline, it is the goal to obtain a longer embargo for History Graduate Students who have written dissertations. While a dissertation is not a book, a good dissertation previews premise, thought and sources.

Lee Palmer Wandel suggested seeking the advice of a copyright attorney.

Steve spoke to Joe Dennis about the copyright laws. The dissertation is a part of the credit requirement is partially property of the university. Open access to the library website is essentially publication for free; no strategy for how to handle this situation. Currently, there is a one year embargo, for a second year or more a request must be made by the student and faculty advisor.

Shelly Chang asked a question about the balance between privacy and being able to access various dissertations.

Steve answered by saying that students are not required to place an embargo on their dissertations but they have the option to have an embargo placed on their dissertation if they request one. There are other ways of accessing dissertations, such as contacting the author or inter-library loan.

VIII. **Program Size and Funding**

Compared to other competitive schools the University of Wisconsin is the only one with No fully funded students. 50% yield of completion of the program. Student wages are lower, current program is half the former size.

The current program size seems to be the best fit. There is research being done about the amount of student debt.

In the October meeting, discussion of statistical data, students experience with the program, employment opportunities. The raw data will be distributed to the members of the Graduate Council a week before the October meeting.