Graduate Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 20, 2010
Enrollment Conference Room

In attending were: Dr. Kristi Pearce, Dr. David Haney, Dr. Patricia Simpson, Dr. David Scarborough, Mr. Rajeev Bukralia, Dr. Garth Spellman, Jay Jacobs, Dr. Mitch Hopewell and Mr. Gregg Galea, Senior Secretary.

Dr. Pearce opened the meeting by welcoming Jay Jacobs to the council as the new graduate student representative. Jay is in the MSIG program.

Dr. Pearce briefed us on the changes to the membership of the council and that Christian Nsiah who was going to replace Tim Steckline for this semester cannot due to his class schedule. She asked if instead of having a new election, if the council was Ok with her going to the other candidates and asking them if one of them could attend Graduate Council meetings for the fall semester. The Council agreed. Dr. Pearce will let Gregg know who to invite to the next meeting.

Minutes for the September meeting were reviewed. Rajeev Bukralia made the motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Spellman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dr. Daniel Asunskis Graduate Faculty Status application was reviewed. A motion to approve was made by Dr. Spellman. Dr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion was carried.

Dr Haney commented on how the Dean's have asked to add new graduate programs. How we should look at the bigger picture regarding graduate studies to include relationships with undergraduate programs, as well as what are BHSU priorities and resources.

Dr. Peace suggested to the Council that it was time to evaluate the graduate program. Do we need to start looking at Graduate Studies as its own unit and not as separate graduate programs? Do we need a Graduate Studies office with a full time director and staff? She asked the graduate Council to consider these issues this semester in parallel with enrollment management planning and Strategic Planning to increase graduate programs. To initiate this charge, Dr. Pearce facilitated a SWOT Analysis (Strength, Weakness, Opportunities, and Threats) seeking input for each of the four categories. The SWOT analysis is attached. Dr. Pearce will forward it on to those members not in attendance for their input.

Dr. Scarborough briefed us on the enrollment changes coming to the MBA.AM program. The program will move from a "cohort model" to a rolling enrollment model. The MBA graduate faculty will work through changing the admission process since the program of study does not require taking sequenced coursework.

Dr. Simpson briefed the council on the new Master of Education in Reading program and the waiver of the external review could change the start date from 2012 to 2011. The waiver was due to the fact that we already have a MSCI with a reading specialization in place. The HLC review needs to be addressed.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.

If you have any comments or corrections, please inform Gregg Galea. Gregg.Galea@BHSU.edu.

SWOT Analysis

Graduate Studies

Strengths

Location

Commitment to Students

Online learning advancement in instruction

Qualified Graduate faculty

Quality of instruction

Meet workforce needs/timely

Societal needs

Size – students still matters

AACSP, DUSEL & University Center Rapid City

Access to Faculty-essential in Mentor Student relationship

Size of University & programs allow access to faculty

Weaknesses

Technological Gap

Reaching Capacity, space & instruction

Budget Restrictions

Administration- Graduate Studies Office

Adjunct Graduate Faculty

Demand for more FTE's to teach and not enough $

Due to program size, courses offered & number of students per course may be below standard

Campus services still learning how to administratively serve online students

Ability to staff new courses/programs

Opportunities

Interdisciplinary collaborations

Access to Reservations

Alternative Energy availability

Charge to increase graduate programs

Lend the way in quality distance adjunct faculty

Serve rural areas and underrepresented populations

Ability to quickly develop new programs

Centralization w/ new structure for graduate studies

RC campus & online may open new avenues

Growing willingness of faculty to develop high quality online/hybrid courses-open to change

Re-organize

Threats

Proliferating we can't sustain

Ranking among other State Schools/ Duplicating programs

Legislative/political threats to funding

Competitive threats from other BOR Schools programming

Meeting accreditation standards

Need for graduate faculty

Mushrooming responsibilities – less faculty participation

Being a smaller university in the current economy, programs may be at risk of being cut