

Winthrop University
Graduate Council Minutes
Friday, January 23, 2009

Members Present: Kelly Richardson (chair), Cara Peters, Wanda Briggs, Antje Mays, Don Rogers, Gale Teaster, Kristi Westover, Lauren Frisoli, and Stephanie Myers Koska. Dean Murnane and Margaret Williamson were also in attendance.

1. The minutes of November 21, 2008 were approved.
2. Reports:
 - a. Dean Murnane reported on the activities of the Graduate School. She mentioned that the student advisory council would like to plan a social/networking event in the spring, work is being done to streamline the application process for professional development courses, \$500 is available for the development and teaching of an online course in the summer session, and a task force is being formed to investigate the offering of a Winter Session with courses offered on-line between the close of the 2009 fall semester and beginning of the spring 2010 term.
 - b. Cara Peters reported on the Faculty Governance study. A revised report will be presented at the next Faculty Conference meeting.
3. Old Business
 - a. Cara presented a draft of the Graduate Faculty Status guidelines. After discussion, Cara offered to revise the draft for the next council meeting.
 - b. Margaret Williamson discussed the changes made to the Thesis Guidelines. The approved document is attached.
4. New Business
 - a. There was discussion regarding the maximum number of hours graduate students could take during Maymester. It was brought up that several cohorts take two courses during this term. ALC will be discussing the issue at its next meeting.
 - b. Dean Murnane asked for suggestions on how to recognize at commencement those students who graduate with a 4.0. The group liked the idea of placing an asterisk by the student's name in the program and the possibility of giving cords to them. Having the students stand for applause was also mentioned.
 - c. Don asked if Graduate Assembly would re-consider plus-minus grading for graduate students. It was decided that the council members would talk to faculty in their colleges to determine if this topic should be pursued. This will be placed on the next meeting's agenda.
 - d. The Petitions Committee agreed to meet the Thursday before classes begin in the fall. The meeting can be held electronically.
5. The meeting was adjourned. The Petitions Committee met briefly afterwards.

