**Final Report**

**Activities by Meeting Date, 2011-2**

**Graduate Council of the Faculty Senate**

**Policy proposals:**

**September 7:** Officers were elected, and there was an explanation by Ken Brauchle of the Distance Education Taskforce’s guidelines for administration of distance education at ISU. A discussion ensued, and the matter of supporting the guidelines was tabled for consideration at a later date.

**September 19:** Distance education guidelines written over the summer by the Distance Ed Taskforce, chaired by Ken Brauchle, dean of Extended Learning, were endorsed and sent to the Senate Exec. The Council supported the measures with the understanding that were to be guidelines, and not rules.

A proposal by CGPS Dean Jay Gatrell to enhance the process for the annual Spring graduate student awards process was endorsed by the Council--without a formal vote. The dean will appoint an ad hoc committee, composed of Council members, to review and modify the changes he proposes.

Jay Gatrell introduced draft policies on academic renewal and assessment of prior learning. These issues were taken up in turn by the Council.

The academic renewal policy is meant to give a second chance to graduate students who may not have been able to succeed in their first attempts at graduate study at ISU. The dean pointed out that there is a parallel policy for undergraduate students.

The original academic renewal proposal for graduate students would have allowed students who have not enrolled after several years to return, under certain conditions. The Council felt the proposal had merit, but altered it to allow students to return after an absence of no less than one year. The proposal, as amended, was sent to the Senate.

Assessment of prior learning, another policy with parallels for undergraduate education at ISU, is meant to allow students to accumulate graduate credits at ISU through such devices as competency based tests and credit by examination. The original proposal would have allowed students to accumulate up to 50 percent of the credits for their degrees through such assessments.

While the Council did finally approve the policy and send it on to the Senate, the original proposal was altered to bring it in line with current credit transfer policy. The Council voted to allow no more than 30 percent of any student’s credits to be earned through such an assessment. However, the Council also agreed that it would consider appeals to waive the 30 percent rule and allow students to earn more credit through transfer/assessment. But the Council required that any degree program proposing to grant credit through assessment of prior learning must obtain the Council’s approval before it began the practice.

**October 31:** At the request of the executive committee of the Faculty Senate, the Council voted in its meeting of 10/31 to reconsider the language of the prior learning assessment policy. The policy, as originally sent to the Senate by the Council, had not considered transfer credits as part of the new policy. The Council voted to change the language to redress that omission.

The edited proposal sent to the Senate today stated that students could earn no more than 30 percent of their credits at ISU through any combination of transfer credits *and/or* credits granted through an assessment of prior learning.

The Council also voted to alter the graduate course approval process to follow the same pattern as course approval for undergraduate courses.

**November 28:**

On November 28, the Council voted to support a request by CGPS to the administration for $17,500 more annual to be spent in recruitment of new students and for and recruitment support.

Also on November 28, Tom Sawyer requested an exemption of the 30% requirement of transfer / assessment of prior learning credits for his department’s MS in Sport Management. The request was made to allow up to 50% of the degree’s requirements to be earned through transfer and/or assessment. Sawyer argued that the exemption would allow the program to articulate with another accredited external, certified program. This in turn would enable the program to become more accessible to potential students across the country. The Council voted to table the request until the December 12, 2011 meeting to allow its members time to consider the merits of the proposal.

**December 12:**

CGPS Dean Jay Gatrell reported that the administration has earmarked more funds for graduate recruitment, as requested by the Council on November 28.

The Council removed from the table the request by Tom Sawyer for an exception to the 30 percent assessment of prior learning / transfer rule for the MS in Sport Management. The request was that the rule be waived, and that Sport Management be allowed to grant up to 50% of the credit toward the degree through assessment of prior learning and/or credit transfer from other institutions. The Council voted to grant the request for exception to the rule.

**February 27:**

Three policy matters were considered by the Council today.

First, the Council supported an administration initiative to create a resource/tool to help faculty develop new program proposals. The Council voted to support the move.

Second, the Council voted to support a “laptop” policy for graduate students, like that for undergraduates. It was noted that the use of laptops on campus was becoming an even more essential feature of education at ISU, since student computer labs were closing.

Third, Council discussed but tabled a motion to support a policy to support approval of innovative course delivery methods. While course and program changes must be approved by the Grad Council, their means of delivery have not. It was proposed that Dean Gatrell “flag” programs that are proposing a delivery change and determine if the Grad Council needs to review and approve the change. Discussion ensued about how innovative delivery methods are currently approved. The Council felt that more clarity is needed from the Dean (who was off campus today) on the matter before a decision can be made. The motion was tabled, and the issue was taken up later.

**March 26:**

The Council removed from the table the proposed policy on innovative course delivery. The Council voted to support the proposal with the understanding that all innovative delivery systems would be first reviewed by the dean for quality; and that some mechanism was in place to record support by faculties of the programs proposing the innovations.

**April 23:**

The executive committee returned the proposed policy on innovative course delivery to the Council for further deliberation, following the expression of concerns voiced by the administration. The administration asked for further definitions of the term; and a better explanation of administrative involvement in the approval of process. It was agreed that online program delivery did not of itself constitute innovative delivery, but that online programs might contain innovative delivery elements.

Members placed language in the proposal that would have the approval of innovative course delivery methods routed through the appropriate college deans; through the dean of Extended Learning; and through CGPS before proposals were considered by the Council. The Council approved these changes to its original proposal, and passed them on to the Senate.

**Curriculum change proposals:**

**October 31:**

Educational leadership requested the Council approve a change of GPA requirement for admission. The request was approved

The Council approved changes in the physician’s assistantship program. The request was for no change in overall content of the program. Instead, courses would be grouped within similar topics together in several seminars worth 2 credits apiece.

BCOE requested approval of the elimination of the PhD in curriculum and instruction. There were just four students left in the program, and plans were in place to sustain them as they complete. When all remaining students finish, the program will be terminated. The request was approved.

A change in the curriculum, instruction and media tech program at BCOE was approved. A concentration in English education was to be added.

**November 28:**

A program change was requested for the MS in computer science by the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. The request would eliminate Math 513 and add courses in advanced software engineering and advanced programming. It would also reduce the number of electives. The overall hours required would remain the same.

While members raised no objections to the changes themselves, it was pointed out that there was no assessment plan present in the proposal. The request was tabled the consideration of the proposal until submission of complete plan, complete with assessment plan.

**December 12:**

The BCOE requested the elimination of the MA in special education. Impact on students would be minimal—there appears to be very little interest in the program

**February 27:**

Changes in MS in computer science, first proposed on November 28, were taken from the table. The Council approved the changes at this time because an assessment plan had been added to the proposal.

The Council approved revisions to the tech management program. The PhD program recently underwent a faculty review. In order to make it more competitive across the country, its faculty requested changes in credits, required student experiences, and curriculum. For example, PhD students must now have a master’s degree in hand before they are admitted.

The Council approved revisions in the MS in electronics and computer tech.

The Council approved revisions in the educational technology program by eliminating the library media program. Changes included the elimination of the library media program itself; changing an elective course to a required course; and removing all curricular elements relating to library specialization.

The Council supported the revision in GPA requirements for all BCOE doctoral degrees. This proposal came about because of the university’s recent grading scale change. The request was to make a language change in the requirement to say “B+” instead of a specific GPA value

The Council supported the requested revision by the English department of the MA in English. In the past, English had offered two MA degrees, one in writing and one in literature. The department requested that it now be allowed to offer just one MA with those two concentrations.

The Council supported the addition of a concentration for dieticians to be added to the MS in health sciences.

Finally, the Council supported the elimination of the catalog language that discusses the admission requirements for the MS in nursing; and the elimination of the nurse practitioner certificate.

**March 26:**

The Council voted to support the proposed changes in the master of public administration program. The changes would add, among other things, three elective concentrations—all take from other departments—to the MPA curriculum.

**April 23:**

The Council voted to support curricular and name changes for the occupational safety management program. Changes were proposed to make the program a better match to its new home in COT.