

University Graduate and Professional Council
2009-2010
Minutes April 15, 2010

Members present: Marietta Bell-Scriber, Jeff Hardesty, Doug Blakemore, Anita Fagerman, Olukemi Fadayomi, Lon Green, Nancy Lashaway-Bokina, David Scott, Nancy Hogan, Don Flickinger,

Others present: Fritz Erickson, Michael Cooper

New Business:

The future of graduate education at Ferris State University was the topic of conversation.

Nancy Hogan provided an overview of the history of graduate education at Ferris reaching back into the late 1980s. Nancy explained the first Graduate Guidelines were established in 1989 and both a Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC) and the University Curriculum Committee (UCC) existed at that time. In 1997 the Graduate Guidelines were updated – at that time there were 3 graduate programs on campus: Management Information Systems Management (MISM), Career and Technical Education, and Criminal Justice. Dr. Hogan explained that as a result of North Central Association (NCA) visits to campus, then Vice-President Barbara Chapman appointed a Task Force to evaluate graduate education at Ferris. The “Graduate Education Task Force” addressed such things as graduate faculty workload, graduate assistants, and the definition of a graduate course and made recommendations thereof. (See <http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/administration/academicaffairs/vpoffice/pdfs/GRADEDUCATION.pdf> for the May 10, 2001 Task Force report.) Dr. Hogan further clarified that the UGPC’s oversight of the Professional degrees (pharmacy and optometry) did not come under the UGPC’s purview until the 2000s.

Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Fritz Erickson discussed his thoughts on the future of graduate education at Ferris explaining that graduate education is important and is a core competency of the University. Dr. Erickson expressed his desire and willingness to grow the number of graduate programs at Ferris, which in turn will grow the number of graduate students. He explained that a challenge for the University is to establish effective structures and mechanisms to develop, expand, cultivate, and foster graduate education at Ferris. He stressed that graduate studies should not ride on the backs of the undergraduate programs, but instead should be unique and separate. Dr. Erickson stated that external development is needed as well as development through grants and research. Currently there are no specific procedures for individuals to know how to get a graduate program started other than the parameters set by the University Graduate Policy.

A general discussion ensued and creatively sought to determine an appropriate role for the UGPC in assisting Dr. Erickson in developing the needed structures and mechanisms to develop,

expand, cultivate, and foster graduate education at Ferris. It was suggested that a Task Force be developed under the direction and authority of the Office of Academic Affairs to initiate a strategic plan for graduate education including where the University ought to be in five years. The task force would lay out a game plan for graduate education at Ferris and identify obstacles that need to be addressed incrementally (i.e. curricular oversight, resources, faculty load, etc). It was suggested that membership on the Task Force would include the UGPC and other Ferris stakeholders.

The meeting closed with a suggested plan of action that VPAA's Office would solicit the assistance of the Academic Senate during the August 2010 Senate Retreat. The Senate would be asked to sanction the development and creation of a new Graduate Education Task Force for the specific purpose of establishing a strategic plan to develop, expand, cultivate, and foster graduate education at Ferris.

Meeting adjourned: 1:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Fagerman, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, MBA Program
2009-2010 Chair, University Graduate and Professional Council