

## **GRADUATE COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT**

### **2005-2006**

The Graduate Council met on the following dates:

2005: September 19, October 17, November 21

2006: January 30, February 27, March 27, April 17, May 15

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS**

##### **Committee structure**

The Graduate Council established six committees focusing on matters it believes central to the future of graduate programs at WCSU:

Alternative scheduling of courses

Assessment of student learning

Commencement

Recruiting graduate students

Review of the Graduate Council's by-laws

Scholarships for graduate students

The work of three committees should be noted more specifically.

- The Assessment committee produced a report in support of WCSU's Fall 2006 report to NEASC (see Curriculum Actions section).
- The Commencement committee explored several options and recommended a separate ceremony that would permit graduate students to be hooded individually by their program coordinators, a ritual that will become more important when the first Ed.D. program cohort graduates in 2008.
- The Scholarship committee actively, and successfully, solicited graduate students to apply for scholarships.

##### **Summer curriculum development funds**

The Graduate Council worked with CUCAS to devise a procedure so that representatives from the Graduate Council participate in evaluating proposals for summer curriculum development funds. Previously proposals dealing with graduate programs were reviewed only by CUCAS.

##### **“Affected department” notification**

The Graduate Council collaborated with CUCAS to improve the procedure for notifying departments that may be affected by another department's actions changing its curriculum and program requirements. A technology-assisted procedure debuts in the Fall 2006 semester.

##### **Continuous registration fee**

The Graduate Council discussed at length establishing a continuous registration fee for students who are not taking courses in a semester but have not yet finished their degree

requirements (e.g., those working on a thesis). By paying this fee, these students would continue to have parking and library privileges and would be counted as actively enrolled in their graduate programs. The Council will explore the feasibility of this fee.

#### **Late registration fee**

In an effort to avoid needlessly canceling courses due to insufficient enrollment, a fee for late registration became effective with the Spring 2006 semester.

#### **Compensation for graduate teaching assistants**

The Graduate Council expressed its support for increased compensation for graduate teaching assistants, including tuition waiver.

#### **Extensions of degree completion deadlines**

The Graduate Council established a new procedure for handling these requests. The student submits the request to the program coordinator. The program coordinator approves the request and submits it the Dean of Graduate Studies for approval. If the Dean does not approve a student's request, that student may appeal the decision to the Graduate Council. The Division of Graduate Studies records all actions, approved or rejected, and reports the data to the Graduate Council at the end of each academic year.

### **Curricular Actions**

#### **Assessment**

The Assessment Committee, ably chaired by Brian Clements, consulted with all the graduate program coordinators to generate the information needed for WCSU's report to NEASC on our efforts to improve the assessment of student learning.

#### **Course offerings**

Each graduate program up-dated its two-year plan or rotation for its course offerings and schedules.

#### **Curriculum changes**

The Graduate Council approved curricular and program changes submitted by the music education, counseling, nursing, education, biology, and mathematics programs.

Respectfully submitted for the Graduate Council,

Fred Tesch, Chairman