

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

MSE-PD Council

Meeting of March 15, 2012

MINUTES

Members Present: Steve Albrechtsen, Pam Clinkenbeard, Edric Johnson, Scott Peters, Nancy Stevens, Kelly Witte, John Zbikowski, and Rick Mason, Chair.

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m. by Rick Mason.
2. The minutes of the February 16 meeting were approved on a Witte/Stevens motion, with the following correction: in item 5 regarding a mandatory meeting for advisors, the phrase “would object to” should be changed to “would find it difficult to attend.”
3. John distributed samples of the letters that have been sent to each newly admitted student since the program started, with copy to advisors, explaining the course sequence and capstone process and providing the advisors’ contact information.
4. John reported that the memos to all advisors and students directing them to sources of information about capstone projects were being held up pending completion of the program website update.
5. Rick reported on the meeting of Issues seminar instructors on March 14, which included a syllabus exchange and a discussion of the purposes of the course. It was the first such meeting of core course instructors since the one held in December 2008.
6. John and Rick presented the expanded “What Is a Capstone Project” document that they had revised. The consensus was to approve the document as revised and to distribute it to all students except for those in the Health, Human Performance and Recreation emphasis, with the following addition: “Experimental forms of representation may include creative fiction, poetic inquiry, or ethnodramatic approaches to qualitative inquiry and research design. If interested, contact Edric Johnson.”
7. Pam summarized the recent work updating the MSE-PD website, including meetings between Ellie, Rick, John, and each emphasis coordinator separately. The Challenging Advanced Learners page would be used as a template, with the same five standard links in the middle of the page for each emphasis.

8. Higher Education Leadership emphasis:

- a. Rick distributed an outline of the proposed Higher Education Leadership emphasis and gave a status report. Instructors have been lined up for the new courses for the emphasis, which have been proposed as workshops: Tom Rios, Brent Bilodeau, and Mary Beth Mackin. The Organization and Governance course is already being taught as CIGENRL 710 by Ellyn Dickmann. The Legal Issues course will be offered this summer, and there is a proposed rotation for the remaining courses.
 - b. Rick reported on the residence life fair in Oshkosh, where 150 individuals were interviewed for hall director positions. The position requires work on a master's degree. UW-La Crosse has a master's program specifically for hall directors. Rick mentioned the possibility of developing courses focused on residence life.
 - c. Discussion followed of an athletics administration program for higher education. Steve doubted that there would be a market for such a program because a master's degree or emphasis is not required for sports information officers, business managers, or athletic directors. What assistant coaches need is a degree related to health, physical education, and coaching, so that they can be qualified to teach health and physical education courses; they do not hold administrative positions. A course or two in athletics administration might be warranted, but not a sub emphasis. The current Organization and Administration of Interscholastic Athletics course focuses on K-12. Steve will look into development of a course or courses in athletics administration with a focus on higher education.
9. Program orientation: Discussion followed about ways to ensure that students are better informed at the outset of the program about the requirements, the structure of the program, expectations, and options. Consensus was that an online introductory module for all students similar to the one developed for the Online Cohort program would only be feasible if a faculty member could be recruited to run it, with appropriate compensation. Students may want to earn credit for a required orientation, or it may be necessary to make it a course for credit to be able to compensate the instructor. Rick and John will investigate what would be needed to develop an online orientation for everybody.

There was some discussion of how the various programs were attempting to ensure that students take CIGENRL/EDFOUND 723 and EDFOUND 780, which are supposed to include an orientation to the program and to graduate study, within their first few credits of admission. This has been difficult in some programs. Steve Albrechtsen will bring to the next meeting a copy of the six-page document students receive when they start the Health, Human Performance, and Recreation emphasis listing, for example, 700-level courses to be offered and explaining the thesis-or-practicum option.

10. Strategic Plan/Future of MSE-PD: Consensus was that it was premature to consider cutting low-enrollment emphases, and that we should continue to offer and promote the current program. It is unclear whether the current dip in enrollment by K-12 teachers is a permanent trend, or whether it is a response to unique historical circumstances such as the severe economic recession and the Budget Repair Bill of 2011. Marketing efforts can be intensified. We can consider how to articulate bachelor's and master's programs – e.g., a 3+2-year bachelor's plus master's in physical education, or an initial licensure program for teachers in other areas that also leads to a master's – it's already a five-year program so why not get a master's?

At the same time, we should continue to develop new credit- and non-credit options, and consider how they can be integrated with the master's program.

Another priority, related to accreditation, would be to ensure adequate compensation for faculty members who work with graduate students. More than one member asked about the status of the proposal, agreed upon at the meeting in January 2011, to eliminate the two, one-credit Capstone Advising courses. John reported that in September Dean Heyning requested that the committee not tamper with the structure of the program until more data had been gathered and analyzed. John will ask Ellie and Katy for clarification of this request.

Consensus was to continue the strategic planning process at the next meeting.

11. The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.