

## Graduate Studies Council (GSC) Charges for 2006-07

Van Cooley is the Faculty Senate Executive Board's liaison on the Graduate Studies Council this year. The Executive Board charges the GSC to consider, as a committee of the whole or through the appropriate sub-committee or task force, the following issues:

1. Joint charge with the Undergraduate Studies Council: WMU Branding Initiative - Suggestions/comments/input requested from the Graduate Studies Council with particular attention paid to graduate student recruitment and retention.
2. Joint charge with the Undergraduate Studies Council: Review existing policies in regard to accommodation of a student's right to be absent due to religious observance.
3. Joint charge with the Undergraduate Studies Council: Review the process and schedules in the Academic Program Planning (APP) document. [NOTE: This charge was postponed.]
4. Joint charge with the Undergraduate Studies Council: Look at on-line courses being scheduled through Academic Technology and Instructional Services (ATIS) and explore recent developments in Extended University Programs (EUP) relating to contact hours, program delivery, etc.
5. Joint charge with the International Education Council: Review recruitment and retention of international graduate students with graduate coordinators.
6. In light of the decline in graduate enrollment experienced over the last several years, examine current practices with regard to graduate student recruitment and retention (including minorities) at WMU. There is likely to be wide variation between departments and colleges, but there may be problems or successful strategies in use which would be helpful to other programs if disseminated more widely. If this is the case, prepare a report to be shared with the faculty.
7. Review the responsibilities of (1) dissertation advisors and (2) policies and procedures for granting graduate faculty status to faculty by the Graduate College.
8. Review the Graduate Advisors Handbook once it has been updated by the Graduate College.
9. Explore and develop a working definition of interdisciplinary graduate programs and interdisciplinary graduate degrees.

### NOTE:

- The Graduate Studies Council is free to determine the specifics of how to address these charges and other tasks it wishes to engage in during 2006-07. All Senate councils are asked to develop recommendations or memoranda of action (MOAs) as necessary. The GSC is requested to keep the Executive Board apprised of progress, especially in connection with any MOA which it may develop, and to give ample notice of intent to bring action or reports to the full Faculty Senate.
- At the end of 2006-07, the GSC is asked to provide a summary of its progress on the above charges to the Executive Board and suggest charges for the following year.