

## GPSEPC

### Notes from December 9, 2009 Meeting

1. Laurie Edwards and Kris Chase gave reports on the Grad Council meetings of Nov. 23 and Dec. 7. Discussion at the Grad Council continues on
  - College budgets,
  - the formation of the Graduate and Professional Honor Council (not all members are confirmed at this point),
  - national trends in graduate education (5-years BA/MA degrees are becoming more common),
  - the need for better academic and career advising for grad students (Russ Tiberii met with the Grad Council about this).

Kris shared the proposed 2011 tuition rates for the various graduate programs at SMC.

GPSEPC followed this report with a discussion of the need for better support for both students and faculty in advising. One suggestion was to provide faculty better support in writing letters of recommendation (perhaps a more centralized process that tracks letters?) There also needs to be more information about internships and discussion of careers. The GPSEPC (with the assistance of Laurie) went on-line to look at "Career Beam", the new career advisory service that is being implemented for the MBA programs.

2. Kris reported that Becky Proehl has offered to attend the Feb. 10 GPSEPC meeting and give an overview of Proquest. Laura and Laurie noted that we have several questions about the preparation of theses, and what needs to be on Proquest.
3. The Committee reviewed the status of the MATL review. Kathy Perez will be forwarding the completed document to the Committee no later than December 15<sup>th</sup>. The GPSEPC will discuss the review at the 01/06/10 meeting and then meet with Kathy and possibly other faculty from the MATL program at a special meeting of the GPSEPC on 01/13/10. Laurie will be forwarding the protocol from the Senate for Initial Reviews of programs. Kris will provide the WASC guidelines as well.
4. The Committee then discussed the proposal for a Vice Provost for Graduate Studies. Issues that arose in the discussion were:
  - Graduate programs need more centralized administration and leadership;
  - Whether all graduate programs would fall within the purview of this position (i.e. would Education and MBA Programs "report" to this individual?)
    - It was agreed that the position should be parallel to the existing Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies – which does not have management authority over undergraduate programs, but instead serves as an advocate and support position.

- Thus, the current job description as provided from Human Resources would need to be changed to eliminate the reporting language.
- Whether or not, in these tight financial times, this proposal should be implemented. The sense of the Committee is that this is a crucial support position for programs that are expected to make positive financial contributions to the College
- The Committee agreed that our support for the position should be communicated. However, there was not a consensus on how to do this. One committee member suggested a letter to the Academic Senate, with copies to Chris Sindt and Beth Dobkin. Another felt that the GPSEPC should send a request directly to the Provost and not through the Senate process. Kris Chase will draft a possible letter for Committee consideration.