

## **GRADUATE COUNCIL REPORT TO THE UNIVERSITY SENATE**

DATE: April 2015  
FROM: The Graduate School

The Graduate Council submits the following recommendation from the **April 23, 2015** meeting for consideration.

- I. Recommendation on Senate Charter revisions relative to Graduate Council

April 23, 2015

Graduate Council adopted the following passage into the Graduate Council's bylaws. With the exception of the highlighted text, the passage is identical to the text communicated to the Council from the Senate as a product of an ongoing revision of the Senate Charter. The Council hopes that the Senate will adopt this passage into the Senate Charter with the highlighted changes included as a "friendly amendment".

## 7. The Graduate Council

The Graduate Council, serving as a Standing Committee of the Senate, is the official representative voice of the graduate faculty and graduate students. Graduate Council membership is comprised of three graduate faculty and one graduate student representing each of the six academic colleges at Western Kentucky University. In addition, the Executive Committee shall appoint one senator to serve as a voting member of the Graduate Council, for a total of twenty-five (25) voting members. Faculty representatives must be members of the graduate faculty and employed by WKU. Ex-officio members include the Dean of the Graduate School and one graduate student representative from the Student Government Association (SGA).

The Graduate Council has general supervision and control over all matters of graduate instruction, including admission and degree requirements, curricula, Graduate Faculty membership, and general academic regulations. The Graduate Council reports its curricular and policy actions to the University Senate who reports to the Provost with recommendations for implementation or appropriate disposition.

Among the primary responsibilities of the Graduate Council are:

- 1) to advise the Dean of the Graduate School on matters relating to the administration of graduate faculty, programs, and students including:
  - a. research initiatives involving graduate faculty and graduate students
  - b. standards governing graduate student admission, financial support, and degree completion
  - c. qualifications required for membership on the graduate faculty and participation in the graduate program, including the supervision and direction of theses and dissertations
- 2) to receive, review, and act upon new or revised Graduate Program and curricula proposals
- 3) to monitor graduate issues and concerns and make policy, proposals, and resolutions concerning Graduate School research, curricula, and other issues and policies impacting the quality of graduate education at WKU
- 4) to respond to requests about graduate matters from the Provost, Dean of Graduate School, Senate, or Council of Academic Dean and serve as liaison between Graduate Council the university administration
- 5) to follow the established policy and procedures as established by the Graduate Council Guidelines, the Graduate School, and published in the WKU Graduate Catalog.

The Chair of Graduate Council shall submit a report setting forth the consent and action items as approved by the Graduate Council to the Chair of the Senate Executive Committee at least seven days prior to the Executive Committee's meeting for approval to include the report on the Senate agenda. Upon approval by **the graduate faculty members of** the Senate Executive Committee, the report shall be included on the Senate agenda for the next scheduled Senate meeting. Upon **approval by the graduate faculty members of** Senate **approval**, the report shall be forwarded to the Provost.