

Appendix E: Graduate Council

Interviewed: James Coakley, Chair, Graduate Council Committee

Interviewer: Linda Sather, Member, Committee on Committees

Date of Interview: March 27, 2014

Responses/Discussion of the assessment guide questions:

1. The line item "approves all graduate faculty members" is not a function of this committee. The Graduate School administers graduate faculty, including the approval of graduate faculty members. The Graduate Council sets policy.
2. The committee's actions/functions, as reported in their minutes, have been consistent with their Standing Rules. The committee's annual report provides a general summary.
3. It is the minutes that provide a memory and the reasoning behind decisions and policies that were made. The annual reports provide a general summary of the issues addressed, activities, and outcomes.
4. Although students have been designated to this committee, only once in the past three years has a student shown-up for a meeting. This committee would welcome a representative graduate student.
5. The University's strategic plan includes the growth of graduate education and is closely tied to research. This Graduate Council sets policy that is aligned with research and graduate educators.
6. The Graduate Council reviews graduate programs to ensure they are of sufficient quality and are providing appropriate services to students. Their close relationship with the Graduate School provides for faculty to have influence on policy and procedures. The Council often acts as a sounding board for the Graduate School, providing reaction to new ideas.

Questions 7&8 were not addressed.

Dr. Coakley would like to voice his concern that everyone on campus seems to be overworked. This makes it difficult to find graduate faculty willing to volunteer their time to be at large participants. It has become harder and harder to get people to help and provide input.