

December 7, 2004

Dear Colleagues,

In January 2004, the Graduate School's Graduate Council "Task Force on Intercampus Graduate Program Administration" was formed and charged with reviewing all policies and procedures relevant to the administration of master's degree programs at the Calumet (PUC) and Westville (PNC) campuses and the Purdue programs at the Fort Wayne campus (IPFW) and in the School of Engineering and Technology and the School of Science at the Indianapolis campus (IUPUI). Associate Dean Jon Story from the Graduate School serves as the convenor of the task force, which has representation from all Purdue campuses.

The task force established a set of "Principles Regarding Master's Degree Level Relationships among Departments and Programs across the Purdue System" and used them in creating a proposal that was unanimously endorsed by the Graduate Council on October 21, 2004.

The task force's guiding principles include:

1. Develop a collegial relationship among all like programs across all campuses within the Purdue system.
2. Parties contemplating new or revised courses, programs or certificates will initiate early and substantive contact among the most likely interested departmental graduate committees across the Purdue University system.
3. The Graduate School will be informed early in the developmental process through the associate dean responsible for liaison with regional campuses.
4. Active interaction and collaboration is encouraged on all academic matters for reasons both of efficiency as well as disciplinary enhancement.
5. All approval documents for any academic issue coming from ICHE-approved programs at all campuses will be routed directly to the Graduate School.
6. Develop distinct marketing and advertising of programs on each campus.

The task force's proposal was:

to eliminate the "steward department" requirement for ICHE-approved graduate master's degree programs in the system-wide Purdue Graduate School. New course proposals from all programs within the system should be directed to the Graduate School. Proposals of new programs or for offerings of programs at a new location would be developed with communication among and approval from all like programs in the system prior to being directed to the Graduate School.

I am delighted to report that, following the Graduate Council's unanimous endorsement, President Martin Jischke and Provost Sally Mason approved the proposal. Effective with the beginning of the spring semester, 2005, all system graduate programs will report directly to the Graduate Council and to the dean of the Graduate School.

For more than 30 years, the duly authorized graduate degrees and programs at the system campuses have operated under the direction of the Graduate Council and of those West Lafayette schools (now, colleges) and departments of the University academically responsible for these degrees and programs.

The stewardship concept has served the University and our graduate programs well. Over the years, the masters programs at the system campuses have developed and matured along with their campuses. Currently 629 graduate faculty at PUC, PNC, IPFW, and IUPUI supervise the work of more than 2,000 graduate students enrolled in 24 Indiana Commission for Higher Education (ICHE)-approved graduate programs.

The task force will continue its work to revise relevant policies and procedures and to bring them into conformity with the new administrative structure.

This is a historic moment for Purdue University. Implementation of the task force's guiding principles will enhance graduate education at Purdue across the state of the Indiana.

John Contreni  
Dean of the Graduate School