Members Present: R. O’Quinn, C. Hazelbaker, J. Potter, L. Reeves, P. Nelson, D. Mann, N. 1
Ridnour, S. Stankavich, A. Abdirizak 2
Ex Officio/Guests: R. Dalla, E. Morgan 3

The meeting was called to order by R. O’Quinn at 3:10 p.m. without quorum. Quorum reached 4 at 3:19 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes of October 10, 2012. D. Mann moved to approve the minutes of October 10, 2012. C. Hazelbaker seconded. The minutes of October 10, 2012 were approved.

3. Additions/Changes to Agenda. a. R. O’Quinn stated she would like to move Item d. Support for Graduate Student Travel up to item b. Hearing no objections this was approved.

4. ASEWU Graduate Affairs Report. a. A. Abdirizak distributed a report of what the ASEWU has been working on since the beginning of the quarter. Highlights included: 1) he will be on the Riverpoint campus from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. on Mondays to serve the students taking classes there; 2) he met with ASWSU in hopes they can co-sponsor events at the Riverpoint campus; 3) he and J. Reisenaur of Technology Advancement are working on his presentation to the MyEWU Portal Committee regarding “Eagle’s Nest” proposal; and 4) he arranged a meeting where several ASEWU member met with J. Gwinn, URC Manager, to discuss ways in which ASEWU could improve student outreach at the URC. b. They are working to increase the hours the Library is open. c. On Tuesday, October 30th at the Riverpoint campus there will be pumpkin carving from 4:00 -7:00 p.m. It is mainly for students but all are welcome to attend.

5. Committee Reports. None.

6. Unfinished Business. a. Grading Policy. R. O’Quinn stated that Dr. Fuller mentioned at Rules they could speed up the approval process of the Grading policy by having members from GAC and UAC work together with R. Dalla, R. Fuller, M. Baldwin and C. Ormsby. J. Potter moved to table the Grading Policy. C. Hazelbaker seconded. Motion carried.

   b. Accepting BAS degrees for admission to Graduate study. C. Hazelbaker moved to table this item. P. Nelson seconded. Motion carried

   c. Support for Graduate students ( waivers & stipends). R. Dalla distributed information from 2006-07 through 2010-11 to show how much support has been distributed in Graduate Service Appointment stipend and waiver dollars. He stated there are a total of 142 Graduate Service appointments available every year that includes 122 resident waivers with 22 of those paid out of the need-based pool and 20 total non-resident waivers. Over the past three years there have been 125 non-resident tuition scholarships available to be awarded and a total of 24 WICHE waivers available to be distributed but the problem is they have more requests for those than they have funds available. He stated that one of the things he will be working on this year is proposing that the number of waivers available for the various categories is increased however the pool of available money is set at a maximum of 11% per legislative mandate. The legislature did allow an increase of 2% for a couple of years however that increase was temporary. He stated the
problem is if you ask for more Graduate waiver dollars that money is taken away from the amount of Undergraduate waiver dollars that are available. Currently the graduate waivers are controlled by the Graduate Studies office but the colleges/departments control the stipends which are allocated through the budgeting process. He stated the problem arose when the departments were hit with budget cuts and they chose to cut stipend funds to meet the cuts. In used to be that anyone who received a waiver also received a stipend however with the budget cuts there are more waivers than stipends available. He stated if the university wants to increase the number of Graduate students on campus they will need to come up with more waiver dollars.  

L. Reeves made a motion to send this to the PDRC to draft language to 1) request an increase in the pool of money for stipends with the intent that the stipend dollars will match the number of waivers in the future, 2) to increase the number of waivers including out-of-state waivers and 3) to request the stipend dollars be returned to the Graduate Studies office to avoid the budgeting axe. D. Mann seconded the motion.  

P. Nelson moved to amend the motion to remove the request to move stipend dollars back to the Graduate Studies office pending conversations with the departments. C. Hazelbaker seconded the amendment. Amended Motion was approved.

d. Support Graduate student travel. R. O’Quinn asked R. Dalla if the funds that have been allocated for Graduate Student Travel will be available for use this year. R. Dalla stated that for this coming year he has some money available through carry forward funds that he will use to support student travel and would like to spread it out over three quarters rather than disbursing it all in the fall. R. O’Quinn asked if he is proposing a new policy for disbursement of student travel funds and R. Dalla stated he is. He stated he has historically made the funds available in the fall and they were mostly used up in the fall so there wasn’t anything left for winter or spring quarters. C. Hazelbaker asked if GAC should make a motion to change the policy to allow R. Dalla’s office to split the funds into three quarters. R. Dalla stated that GAC should be encouraged to seek other sources of funding to support student travel because there is a limit to the amount he can support out of the Graduate fee account.  

C. Hazelbaker made a motion to send this to the PDRC to draft language for changing the Graduate student travel policy to allow disbursement of funds on a quarterly basis. L. Reeves seconded. Motion carried.

C. Hazelbaker made a motion that PDRC write a resolution to address the larger funding issue and to seek outside funding for Graduate student travel. L. Reeves seconded. Motion carried. L. Reeves asked what sources GAC should approach. R. Dalla stated that as part of the new biennium budget they are seeking requests for the base funding which would be the best place this could come from because it is a permanent source of funding. He stated he will make a request from his office.

7. New Business. a. Access from Cheney to WSU’s Library. Due to lack of time this will be new business at the next meeting.


b. Administrative Report. i. R. Dalla reported that since the last meeting he attended a meeting of the Interinstitutional Committee of Academic Programs and Planners which is a sub-group of
the provost’s group in the state. He stated that since the Higher Education Coordinating Board was replaced by the Washington Student Achievement Council as an oversight for higher education, program approval which used to reside with the HECB was basically sent to the WSAC who has allocated it to the Council of Presidents. He stated that when a program gets approved by the Graduate Affairs Council then a short document is submitted to the ICAP group which gets posted on their website to inform the other institutions in the state that Eastern will be offering a new program and they would inform the WSAC. He stated it is a simpler process than in the past. ii. E. Morgan reported they have been looking at a new curriculum management tool which was approved with funding. She stated they hope to have it ready for implementation in May.

10. Good of the Order. None.

11. Meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m. The next meeting will be held on November 14, 2012.