

Minutes of GFC Meeting
March 1, 2001
Blue Room, 4pm

Bruce Mork convened the meeting at 4:09pm

Attending:

Graduate Programs: Bruce Mork (EE), Vicky Bergvall (RTC), Steve Carr (CS), Sarah Green (CH), Chung-Jui Tsai (SFWP), Casey Huckins (BL), John Jaszczak (PH) and John Sutherland (MEEM)

Other representatives: Marilyn Urion (GS), Neil Hutzler (COE), and Bruce Rafert (PH)

Programs not represented: Mathematical Sciences, School of Business and Economics, Geological Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Social Science, Mining, Materials Science and Civil and Environmental Engineering

Visitors: Steve Bowen

Results of the GFC election of members to the Graduate Dean Search Committee

With 13 departmental representatives voting, here are the results of the Graduate Faculty Council's election of members to the Search Committee for the Graduate Dean:

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College of Engineering (2 nominated; 2 elected):

S. L. Yang (ME-EM)
Leonard Bohmann (EE)

College of Science & Arts (4 nominated, 2 elected):

John Jaszczak (Physics)
Heidi Bostic (Humanities)

School of Forestry & Wood Products representative (1 nominated; 1 elected):

Peg Gale

School of Business & Economics (1 nominated; 1 elected):

Anil Jambekar

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Forwarded to the Senate for their At-Large nominees the names of the other candidates (Charles Kerfoot, Biological Sciences; Vladimir Tonchev, Math)

Update on Dean of the Graduate School Search Committee

The Senate did not have quorum, so the at-large members of the committee were not elected. There will be a 2-week delay (the next Senate meeting) in forming the committee.

Update on Graduate Student Recruiting

Neil Hutzler gave an update on his recruiting trips. Marilyn Urion note that the current cost-share funding opportunities through the Graduate School are under subscribed.

Distance Education

Steve Bowen gave a report on distance education. He said that enrollment in MTU's distance education programs will be going from 680 to 1800 to 2200 students in the next two years. Only 5% of those enrolled are graduate students

Residency requirements were discussed. Currently all distance education graduate programs are thesis based. Thus the student must come to Tech for the defense. Additionally, there is a residency requirement for students to spend time at Tech with his/her advisor, or advisor would need to spend time with the student off campus.

Most of MTU's competitors do not have a residency requirement and offer programs that are not thesis based. Steve Bowen stated that he did not believe that MS programs for coursework option needed a residency requirement. Having a residency requirement for such programs may make our programs undesirable.

Several member of the GFC expressed that many faculty are uncomfortable with a program that does not have a residency requirement. Others expressed concern that distance education programs may diminish value of the on-campus degree.

Steve Bowen supported a model where the degree-specific requirements define the residency requirements. Coming to campus should be driven by the value of such visits for a specific degree. Coursework masters may have different requirements than a thesis masters.

The meeting adjourned at 5pm.