

11 November 2003 GFC Meeting Minutes

Note: Below is listed the recent GFC meeting topics in outline format along with the minutes in italics.

Meeting convened at 4:05 pm in the GSC Blue Room.

Meeting minutes were taken by Marilyn Vogler and transcribed by John Gierke.

Representatives in Attendance: Casey Huckins (Bio Sci), Paul Nelson (SBE), Jason Keith (CM), Richard Brown (CH), Neil Hutzler (CEE), Soner Onder (CS), Kedmon Hungwe (Educ.), Kurt Pregitzer (SFRES), John Gierke (GMES), Cindy Selfe (HU), H. Wang (MSE), Mark Gockenbach (Math), Barry Solomon (SS), Bruce Rafert & Marilyn Vogler (Grad School), Michelle Trim & Visesh Kumar (GSC)

Depts/Programs/Offices not represented: Biomedical Eng., Physics, Electrical and Computer Engineering, MEEM, Physics, Research Office

Guests in Attendance: Pat Martin (SS)

• Administrative Business: John Gierke

- Tie up loose ends for ad hoc committees

Those GFC members who had not yet committed to one of the four ad hoc committees were asked to make a commitment. To date, all but one member has an assignment.

- Ad hoc committee budgets: \$1000 each

Each ad hoc committee has a budget of \$1000 to support their activities. The accounts are managed by the Graduate School.

- Committee to review Certificate in Sustainability

An ad hoc committee was established to review the Certificate in Sustainability, prepare a GFC position statement and recommendation for presentation at the December GFC meeting. This process is analogous to that used for reviewing proposals for new graduate degree programs. Neil Hutzler (CEE), Cindy Selfe (HU), Barry Solomon (SS), and John Gierke (GMES) agreed to serve on the committee. Neil will chair it.

- **Report on Joint RAC/GFC Meeting:** John Gierke

John Gierke and Bruce Rafert provided comments on the joint RAC/GFC meeting. The only GFC members in attendance at this meeting were those that already serve on the RAC (Research Advisory Council). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss current problems/issues with communication between the Research Office and Grad School and Research/Graduate Faculty. It is clear that there is no universal communication venue that is effective for everyone. Some faculty prefer e-mail while others abhor it, and everything in between. Conversely, some prefer printed newsletters and others pitch them.

With respect to e-mail announcements, it was decided that instead of attaching documents, URLs will be provided where the document can be viewed/downloaded.

- **Report on the Review of the PhD in Industrial Heritage & Archeology Proposal:**
Paul Nelson

The Committee reviewing the Proposal for a Ph.D. in Industrial Heritage & Archeology (Paul Nelson(SBE), Chair, Oner Arici (MEEM), Linda Nagel (SFRES), Cynthia Selfe (HU), and addition input from Jeff Burl (EE) and Neil Hutzler (CE)) prepared a report that was presented by Paul Nelson. The committee recommends approval of the proposal. The bulk of the discussion subsequently involved the consideration of new costs associated with the program if it is approved and implemented. Some were of the opinion that a recommendation can not be made without consideration of how the new costs will be covered, while others proposed that we evaluate the proposal on all of its merits except for the financial impact it may pose. Agreement could not be reached, so a vote was called for with regard to the committee's recommendation without consideration of the financial implications. In other words, is the addition of this new program justified, in line with the university goals and mission, and worth doing. The yeas votes to this effect numbered 12, there were no nay votes, and 1 representative abstained. The committee recommendation and report then became the position of the GFC and this was forwarded to the Dean of the Graduate School.

- **Ad Hoc Committee Reports: Chairs & 2003-04 Goals**

- Recognition & Rewards (R&R) – Soner Onder

Committee members Soner Onder (CS) and Kedmon Hungwe (Educ.) reviewed M.S. thesis nominations and selected the top one to serve as MTU's nomination for a Midwest Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) 2003 Thesis Award. MTU nominees have never placed in this annual competition. This year's nominee is Tim Fillmore, M.S. Environmental Policy, and his thesis is titled, "Upiaq Ecological Knowledge." Soner commented on the rather intensive nature of the studies represented by the theses that were nominated, something above and beyond an M.S.

Additional members were requested to serve on this committee. Two were asked after the meeting and one accepted (Seth Donahue (Biomed. Eng.)). Visesh Kumar is the GSC rep.

The DeVlieg Foundation Fellowship Nominations were given to the R&R along with a request to review the nominees and select 3 Ph.D. and 4 M.S. awardees with a turnaround of 1 week. Bruce Rafert explained that DeVlieg Foundation chose not to support any of its schools this year except for MTU and that the fact we received the funds was the result of hard work by Carolyn Weissbach in Corporate Foundations. We have 15K for awards this year, normally we have only 7.5K. On the downside, they insist on a fast turnaround.

The committee suggests announcing these things (MAGS Thesis Competition and DeVlieg Fellowships to graduate students directly rather than through the graduate program coordinators to increase the number of applicants).

- Remuneration & Benefits (R&B) – Neil Hutzler

The R&B (Neil Hutzler (CEE), Richard Brown (CH), and Michelle Trim (GSC) has not yet met. In terms of history, this committee last reviewed stipends and health insurance 2 years ago. They plan to review the impact of the NSF Fellowship Stipend, which is around 25K, in comparison to the university standard rate. They also plan to formulate a position on Child Care at MTU. John Gierke asked the R&B to evaluate the impacts of Differential Tuition. They need 1-2 additional members. Kurt Pregitzer (SFRES) has joined this committee.

- Recruiting and Graduation (RAG) – Casey Huckins

Committee members (Casey Huckins (Bio. Sci.), Bruce Mork (ECE, Chair), Jason Keith (CM), Cindy Selfe (HU), Anne Hartingh (GSC)) met and elected Bruce Mork as their chair. Their first order of business will be to evaluate the impacts and effectiveness of the Fly-Ins. There is question as to who will be coordinating this year's fly-ins and apparently this will be the GSO. They plan to evaluate the success of advertisement campaigns, such as in the journal Science. They also explore the availability and source of funds dedicated for recruiting fellowships and finishing fellowship. Essentially they will review the impacts of our current practices for recruitment and graduation and suggest improvements.

- Policies & Qualities (Ps & Qs) – Mark Gockenbach

Mark Gockenbach (Math) has been elected chair of the Ps & Qs, which consists of members: Barry Solomon (SS), Marilyn Vogler (GSO), Sean Wagner (GSC), and Jerry Ross (GSC). H. Wang (MSE) joined the committee after the meeting. They have been assigned the task of reviewing grad program policies with the an outlook to potential organizational changes in the future. There is no future reorganization plans influencing this now, this review will be undertaken so that responses to reorganizational plans can be formulated with respect to graduate program issues. The Ps&Qs will also review the GSC statement on the universities sexual misconduct policy.

- **Open Discussion**

GFC President John Gierke canceled the Open Discussion period and closed the meeting to finalize committee assignments individually with some of the GFC members in attendance.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm