

Graduate Faculty Council

Minutes: January 11, 2005

The Graduate Faculty Council (GFC) met on January 11, 2005 in the ROTC Blue Room.

Depts/Programs represented: Casey Huckins (Biology), Brent Lekvin (SBE), Joe Holles (CM), Pushpa Murthy (Chem), Neil Hutzler (CEE), Soner Onder (CS), Kedmon Hungwe (Educ.), Warren Perger (ECE), Kurt Pregitzer (SFRES), John Gierke (GMES), Dennis Lynch (HU), H. Wang (MSE), Ghatu Subhash (MEEM), Barry Solomon (SS), Marilyn Vogler (GS), Dave Reed, Justin Priestman (GSC).

Depts/Programs/Offices not represented: Biomedical Engineering, Math, Physics

Guests: None

1. President Kurt Pregitzer opened the meeting at 4:05.
2. John Gierke volunteered to record and distribute the minutes for the January meeting.
3. Agenda Items:
 - A. December Meeting Minutes: approved without corrections on voice vote.
 - B. Announcement of a search for a new graduate dean: Dave Reed, Interim Provost/VP Research/Dean of the Graduate School
 - i. Reed distributed copies of Senate Proposal 12-01, which is now policy and outlines the Search Procedures for Dean of the Graduate School, and discussed the process with the GFC:
 1. According to the policy, GFC elects 6 of the 12 members of the search committee from the graduate faculty (2 from the COE, 2 CSA, 1 SBE, & 1 SFRES) and does so before the senate, administrators/deans, and chairs select their representatives.
 2. At the time of the last search for the graduate dean, the GFC advertised in Tech Topics, seeking volunteers for the search committee. Presumably they then elected members from the list of volunteers.
 3. The GFC discussed the advertisement and other more pro-active approaches for electing the committee members as fast as practically possible and also allowing all interested members of the graduate faculty to be considered by the GFC for the search committee. GFC Pres. Pregitzer volunteered to draft an announcement about the formation of the search committee for Tech Topics and an e-mail to graduate faculty to volunteer to be considered to represent the GFC on the search committee. The draft is intended to be circulated on Wednesday, January 12, 2005, and GFC reps are to respond with comments within a day or two receiving the draft. Also, GFC reps are to solicit volunteers from their departments. GFC reps are to provide a list of those volunteering from their departments to be considered by the search committee to the next GFC meeting (TBA).
 4. Reed also mentioned that the scope of the search (internal only vs. internal/external) has not yet been decided. Ideally, the new dean of the graduate school will be able to start Fall 2005 semester.

5. The GFC also discussed how to elect the search committee reps once the list is compiled. The general opinion was for the GFC to hold a vote (at the next meeting) to elect a suite of reps that meets the senate guidelines.
 - ii. Reed informed the GFC that an announcement is forthcoming in the next issue of Tech Topics about the appointment of an interim graduate dean.
- C. Asst. Dean Marilyn Vogler reported on her discussions with Human Resources about the issue of making graduate faculty appointments pro forma for new tenure track faculty. HR had suggested changing the offer letter for tenure-track positions in programs that offer graduate degrees to include a statement appointing him/her to the graduate faculty. For faculty appointments that are nontenure track or in departments where graduate degrees are not offered, the current process of the department chair submitting a graduate faculty application form would be followed. The general consensus was that this would be an effective approach for appointing new faculty to the graduate faculty immediately upon starting their position.
- D. Discussion Item: Internal recruitment (or lack thereof) of undergraduate minority students to graduate school (MEEM Rep. Ghatu Subhash).
 - i. Subhash reported on a Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) Meeting that he recently attended along with 7 MTU minority undergraduate students and MTU Hispanic/Latino Outreach Coordinators Madeline Mercado Voelker. He was surprised to observe that the students were unaware that most graduate students are supported. The students had not really considered graduate school because they felt that they could not afford it.
 - ii. Subhash recommends that faculty should take a more pro-active role in informing undergraduates about opportunities and benefits to graduate school.
- E. Discussion was held about whether automatic appointment of graduate

The GFC adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Reported by J.S. Gierke

Minutes revised 1 March 2005 by J. Gierke in response to comments from B. Solomon