

Graduate Faculty Council
Tuesday 11/7/06 4:00pm

1. Called to Order 4:06 pm
2. Christa Walck: proposed MS program name change “Mineral Economics” -> “Applied Natural Resource Economics”
 - Clarifies this is a ‘name change’ only and not a curriculum change
 - Request for definition of “natural resource” in lieu of “mineral”; stated this includes all resources in natural world
 - Some discussion on core course content; additional clarification by Mark Roberts
 - Proposal approved unanimously; Martin 1st; Diehl 2nd
3. Minutes of 10/3/06 approved unanimously; Auer 1st, Anderson 2nd
 - Nancy Auer discussed whether previous meetings ‘New Business’ should automatically be considered ‘Old Business’ at next meeting.
 - Suggestion to clearly identify in Minutes which items have deliverables (‘Action Items’)
4. Nancy Byers-Sprague: Proposed changes to Grad School ‘Tracking’ forms
 - Reviewed proposed changes to Grad School tracking forms; please see handout for details
 - Suggestion that currently not all forms are listed in the appropriate sections on the Grad School website; Byers-Sprague replied website will be updated {Action Item}
5. Old Business: MS committee, proposal to reduce required # of committee members from 4 -> 3
 - Diehl: Geology feedback generally neutral; change may exclude younger faculty from getting experience on MS committees
 - Huntoon: discuss some pros/cons of continuing requirement of outside member; proposes to further look into this possibility {Action Item}
 - Decision to include wording as “..minimum of three committee members..” thus leaving it up to individual departments to include more if desired
 - Auer: Biology feedback solidly against the proposal
 - Keith to request specific feedback from each Dept.; bring to next meeting {Action Item}
6. Old Business: ‘Last Term’ deadlines
 - Huntoon discussed several options and various pros/cons; other discussion
 - Proposal to bill every semester but then give a ‘rebate’ for a students last semester; may be the best way to implement idea considering Registration & Accounting implications
 - Huntoon to write up various options and distribute to GFC for consideration {Action Item}
7. Martin move to Adjourn; Anderson 2nd; unanimous; Meeting adjourned 5:10 pm

Summary of Action Items

Graduate School – update website; look into requirement of outside member on thesis committee at peer institutions; last term deadline proposals

GFC members to departments – obtain feedback on proposal to have a “minimum of three committee members” on MS committees. After discussion of this feedback there will be a vote.

Attendance (Affiliation)

Jason Keith (President)

Jackie Huntoon (Grad School)

Nancy Byers-Sprague (Grad School)

Christa Walck (School of Business)

Mark Roberts (School of Business)

David Watkins (CEE)

Jianping Dong (Math)

Carl Anderson (ME-EM)

Jimmy Diehl (Geology/Mining)

Patrick Martin (Social Sciences)

Melissa Meyer (EE)

William Yarroch (Education)

Nancy Auer (Biology)

David Tobias (GSC)

Proposed Changes to Tracking Forms (M/D Forms) (From Nancy Byers-Sprague)

Changes for which GSO would like feedback from GFC

Change D3 (Preliminary Degree Schedule) to a planning document which would not be submitted to the GSO. Alternatively could add “some departments require this form to be submitted to the departmental graduate secretary”

Eliminate need for entire committee to sign D5 (Final Degree Schedule) – advisor and department chair/grad coordinator signatures remain

Eliminate need for entire committee to sign D7 (Scheduling of Final Oral Exam) – advisor and department chair/grad coordinator signatures remain. Eliminate need to submit draft of entire dissertation to GSO

Changes that do not need input from GFC but input welcomed:

All forms will be signed by “Department Chair or Graduate Coordinator” instead of “Department Chair”

All forms will be signed by “Assistant to the Dean of the Graduate School” instead of “Dean of the Graduate School”

Master of Engineering Forms: Dr. Sorby agrees with these changes

Change MEng1 making it “For student planning purposes only – does not need to be submitted to the Graduate School”

Other signature & editorial changes

Eliminate page two of the Bridge Courses - Master’s Path (MP-1) that would be submitted after the specified courses have been taken. This is not needed as GSO staff can check this during degree audit.

Report on Comprehensive Examinations (D4) is no longer submitted in paper form to the GSO - department graduate secretaries enter information directly into Banner screens at each stage of the examinations thus providing more complete information.

Eliminate need for co-advisor signature on “Request to Participate in Commencement Prior to Final Submission of Documents” Advisor signature remains

Eliminate need for student signature on Life After MTU form

Eliminate the form to document off-campus residency. Senate Proposal 11-01 says that distance courses meet qualifications for taking classes at MTU and a presentation by Bill Shapton on March 28, 2001 to the Senate stated that there was no residency requirement for distance degrees.

Add clarifying language to the instructions and enrollment form for the continuous enrollment courses (UN 5951, 5952, 5953)

May revise Questionnaire for Exiting Graduate Students, the legal language on the “Permission for UMI to Publish Abstract” form (when publication of a thesis/dissertation will be restricted for a period of time), and on “MTU’s Electronic Document Project” (ETD) document