

## Minutes of the Graduate Faculty Council Meeting

Tuesday 12/4/07 4:00 pm

- 0) Meeting called to order at 4:06 pm  
Attendees (17): Beth Flynn (Humanities), Richard Honrath (CEE), Brian Davis (Technology), Nancy Auer (Biology-President), Craig Friedrich (ME-EM), Rupak Rajacher (Biomed), Jianping Dong (Math), Yuliya Strizhakova (Business), William Yaroch (ASE), Judith Perlinger (EPD2), Mike Mullins (Chem Eng.), Phillip Merkey (CSER), Emily McCarthy (GSC), Jackie Huntoon (Grad School), Nancy Byers Sprague (Grad School), Joanne Polzien (guest – Research Compliance), Jacqui Whitman (Grad School-recording secretary)
- 1) Reviewed minutes of 11/6/07  
Beth Flynn made **motion** to accept, Brian Davis seconded, unanimous approval of minutes.
- 2) Old Business  
None
- 3) New Business
  - a) Jim Pickens'– re: need for defining full-time graduate students  
Pickens did not attend meeting because it was determined that only 1 or 2 students per year would have problems with the university's definition of full-time enrollment (9 credits per academic year semester). After speaking with Dean Huntoon, it was decided that these students' issues could be best addressed on a case by case basis within the framework of the current policy.
  - b) Joanne Polzien – re: Responsible Conduct of Research course  
A zero credit Responsible Conduct of Research Course will be required for all graduate students, faculty and staff involved in research in the near future. The federal government is mandating that all institutions receiving federal money in excess of 5 million dollars comply with its requirement that researchers receive training in the responsible conduct of research. A CITI (Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative) program will get us going until we have our own in place. Modules are up, can be taken and tracked. A committee will need to make recommendations regarding the timeline for implementation.
  - c) Dean Huntoon – re: Updates from the Graduate School
    - 1) University Marketing and Communications is in the process of revamping and updating the graduate school online application pages to make them more user -friendly. They are also looking into an online submission process for letters of recommendation and are working on a mockup for review by the Graduate School.
    - 2) The proposal for second degree programs has not yet been forwarded to the Senate but will be in the near future.
    - 3) The principals interested in a degree in geospatial technology and applications met recently with the dean of the Graduate School. The meeting was very productive and progress is being made in designing a revised degree proposal that will be brought to the GFC for consideration.

- 4) The dean reported that recommendations about graduate student support have been made by faculty on campus. One recommendation for making funds that has been proposed in the past is that full tuition and stipend packages be awarded to outstanding scholars for at least a two-year period to attract them to the university. These students would not be expected to teach, but rather to work full time on research. Under this model, teaching needs would be covered by graduate students (either students who never received the full stipend and tuition package, or students who are now in their third or more year of graduate school who are not being supported by external funds). Students being paid to teach would be paid an hourly wage, and therefore would not be required to register full time. Discussion of this concept followed, and there was little support among GFC members for this type of funding model.
- 5) The dean mentioned that while doing some benchmarking research she found that many research intensive universities provide PhD students with a raise in stipend and award them an MS degree after they complete their coursework and pass all of their preliminary exams. She suggested that this might encourage students to take their exams earlier and move into full-time research only ("All-But-Degree", or ABD) mode more rapidly. It might also help to attract students drawn from low-income or underrepresented groups who are hesitant to commit to a PhD program due to financial concerns and the long time to degree. Discussion followed. Dong (Math) discussed some innovative policies used in her department.

**Motion** made to adjourn at 4:52 pm by Craig F. Brian D. seconded.