

# Minutes of the Graduate Faculty Council Meeting

Tuesday 1/15/08 4:00 pm

0) Meeting called to order at 4:05 pm

Attendees (18): Bill Yarroch (ASE), Nancy Auer (Biology-President), Yuliya Strizhakova (Business), David Chesney (Chemistry), Shekar Joshi (Forestry), Jimmy Diehl (Geology), Pat Martin (SSM), Craig Friedrich (ME-EM), Richard Honrath (ATM), Phil Merkey (CSER), Judith Perlinger (EPD2), Beth Flynn (Humanities), Brian Davis (Technology), Chris Middlebrook (Elec & Comp Eng), Nancy Byers Sprague (Grad School), Jackie Huntoon (Grad School), Jacqui Whitman (Grad School-recording secretary), Leonard Bohman (guest-Elec & Comp Eng)

1) Minutes of 12/4/07 meeting were not reviewed. This was tabled until more people have reviewed them. Will make motion to approve/not approve next meeting.

2) Old Business

a) Dean Huntoon – re: more discussion on proposal for funding Grad students

Huntoon shared data regarding the strategic plan goals for the year 2012. Numbers for expected graduation rate and faculty/student ratio were addressed. We should have the human power on campus to do this because the numbers aren't outrageous. Keeping these goals in mind, are we using internal dollars as smart as we should to get to where we need to go? Currently GTAs (tuition + stipend) are awarded based on teaching needs and GAs (tuition & stipend) are allocated based on a department's research productivity. Most GAs across campus are actually serving as TAs (in terms of job responsibility). It was also mentioned that lowering the credit requirement for full-time status will make the internal funding stretch farther.

3) New Business

a) Nancy Auer – re: election of tenured individual to serve on Performance Review committee for Jackie Huntoon

Jim Diehl (Geology) volunteered/nominated himself. All approved. Judith Perlinger (EPD2) inquired as to whether the non-departmental programs will be included in this committee. Huntoon explained that the review process was established some time ago and it looks like non-departmental programs were left out and that she could speak to the Provost to change that. As it is now, the process is consistent with Senate guidelines for reviews of other school deans.

b) Leonard Bohman – re: a graduate certificate proposal: Certificate in advanced Electric Power Engineering

Handouts were passed out to review. Some clarification questions were addressed in regards to wording of the proposal. Friedrich (ME-EM) made motion to accept, Yarroch (ASE) seconded, all approved.

- c) Dean Huntoon – re: International students who come to work with specific faculty who end up being on sabbatical  
2-3 complaints have been made by international students who come to find their faculty advisor is on sabbatical. This leaves student with little or no guidance. An interim advisor is necessary. This could possibly be the graduate program director or they could assist in finding the student an interim advisor. Please be aware of this issue.
- d) Tess Ahlborn – could not attend
- e) Dean Huntoon – re: parental/maternal leave for graduate students  
Most schools grant their graduate students some form of parental leave. The length of time varies depending on the wealth of the school. The basic concept is that there would be centralized support that could be dispersed to departments if a grad student goes on leave. This support would cover hiring a substitute instructor to cover student’s teaching assignments, etc. It’s still unclear how this will affect externally funded students, but can be looked at. The point was made that this need does not arise frequently, but current lack of central support is problematic for some departments. All agreed that this is something we should move forward with. Dean Huntoon will follow up with this item.
- f) Dean Huntoon – re: Updates from Graduate School
  - 1) Feb 12<sup>th</sup> NSF official from the Office of Research Integrity will be here. They’ll lead an interactive session on research integrity. A morning session will be in a large lecture hall and the afternoon session will be in Rehki for recording purposes. Graduate students and faculty are encouraged to attend.
  - 2) Council of Graduate Schools Resolution - MTU has signed this resolution for another 10 years. It’s an agreement to not require potential graduate students to commit before April 15<sup>th</sup>. You can ask them to let you know as soon as possible, but they have until April 15<sup>th</sup> to decide. This will be sent to departments so that they can update their offer letters.