

Minutes of the Graduate Faculty Council Meeting

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

- 0) Meeting called to order at 4:05 pm.
Members (15): Nancy Auer (Biology-Chair), Judith Perlinger (EPD2), Beth Flynn (Humanities), Shekhar Joshi (Forestry), Craig Friedrich (MEEM), Emily McCarthy (GSC), Richard Honrath (IAS), Wm. Yarroch (ASE), Jianping Dong (Math), Phil Merkey (EPD5), Pat Martin (SS), Alex Mayer (Geo), Rupak Rajachar (Biomed), Chris Middlebrook (ECE), Brian Davis (Technology)
Guests (3) Sarah Green (Chemistry), Sonia Goltz (Business), Jacqui Whitman (Grad School – recording secretary)

- 1) Old Business
 - a) Judith Perlinger- comments on external member. She commented that EPD2 faculty members would like a resolution to this issue. J. Perlinger shared Dean Huntoon's thoughts with the group. Overall, Dean Huntoon supported this proposal. However, the issue on how the GFC wants to define an external member will need to be taken up at a later date. Once this is done, it may change the decision made for interdisciplinary studies. Shekhar Joshi suggested since the Graduate School regulates/oversees interdisciplinary programs, the Graduate School should appoint the external member. Pat Martin mentioned that he passed this around his department and everyone seemed to be in agreement that an external member should be totally external. A vote was taken and the majority voted against this proposal. Judith Perlinger accepted the vote and suggested a need to revisit at a later date because so many people think differently about the topic.

- 2) New Business
 - a) Sarah Green asked the GFC what is the best way to support interdisciplinary graduate students on GTA lines? There is a support issue when, for example, a chemistry student teaches a physics course. Which department pays for the student's support? This problem will arise with the number of interdisciplinary graduate students increasing. One idea is to have one department pay tuition and the other department pay stipend. Most in attendance seemed to agree with this idea. Nancy Auer suggested no action taken at this time. Discussion will be shared with Dean Huntoon. Counting is another issue. We need to eliminate double counting of grad students. We will revisit this in the fall.
 - b) Comments for review of Dean Huntoon. Minutes taken by Judith Perlinger.