Minutes of the Graduate Faculty Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 13, 2015

Members (10): Kari Henquinet (PCorps), Ashutosh Tiwari (Chem), Zhenlin Wang (CompSci), Leonard Bohmann (Eng), Keat Ghee Ong (BioEng), Tom Merz (BusAdm), Caryn Heldt (ChemEng), Shane Mueller (CogSci), Warren Perger (ElecCompEng), Patty Sotirin (RTC)

Guests (4): Debra Charlesworth (Grad Sch), Nancy Byers Sprague (Grad Sch), Heather Suokas (Grad Sch), Sasha Teymorian (GSG)

1) Meeting called to order at 4:07 pm.

2) Review and approval of 12/02/14 meeting minutes.

3) Committee Reports:

4) Old Business:
   a. Update on Graduate Program Review (Dean Huntoon): The Graduate School has been working on taking the guidelines for Graduate Program Review (approved by the GFC on October 21, 2010) and update them so that it is clear how they align with the University Learning Goals, University Strategic Plan, and guidance regarding assessment provided to the University by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). This will be helpful for communication with our accreditation authority. The HLC is now asking for a student-level outcomes assessment. C. Walck has been leading this for the undergraduates and is advising the Provost on what must be done at the Graduate level in order to meet the HLC expectations. For starters the Graduate School is tackling the graduate learning outcomes at the PhD and master’s (research) levels. The Graduate School has worked with C. Walck to identify Graduate School objectives. Please review the handouts section of the GFC website for complete details on this endeavor.
   b. Pre-requisite Checking (Dean Huntoon): Based on feedback gathered in the last three meetings the consensus has been to not turn on graduate level prerequisite checking University wide. The Registrar, T. Jacques, has offered to meet with departments/programs individually if they would like to discuss options.
   c. Adjunct Faculty Term Redefinition (Dean Huntoon): The council was asked to bring this back to their departments and be prepared to vote at this meeting. The proposal is to modify the definition of adjunct faculty to bring the usage of this term as it is applied at Michigan Tech into line with how the term “adjunct” is used at other institutions of higher education. The proposed new definition is as follows: An appointment at this rank is offered to persons not regularly or primarily employed within an academic unit at the University. Such individuals, because of training, experience, credentials, and interest, are invited to participate in the teaching, research, and/or instructional programs of academic departments. Remuneration may be provided for teaching and/or research activities. Appointments shall be for no more than three years with the possibility of subsequent reappointments.
      • (D): Motion to approve passed.
   d. Definition of Joint Faculty (Dean Huntoon): The suggestion to use the term “Affiliated” to refer to those faculty currently referred to as “Adjunct” was discussed. This will be discussed at the February 3 meeting.


6) Motion to adjourn at 5:05 pm.