Minutes of the Graduate Faculty Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 1, 2011

**Members** (14): Bill Yarroch (ASE), Amy Marcarelli (Bio Sci), Eugene Leven (Sch Tech), Seth Donahue (Bio Eng), Ashutosh Tiwari (Chem), Dave Watkins (Civ & Env), Chris Middlebrook (Elec & Comp), Greg Waite (Geo), Sam Sweitz (Ind Hert), Carl Anderson (Eng), Craig Friedrich (MEEM), Jim Hwang (Mat Sci), Blair Orr (PCMI), Kim Fook Lee (Phys)

**Guests** (6): Heather Suokas (Grad Sch), Debra Charlesworth (Grad Sch), Jacqueline Huntoon (Grad Sch), Jacque Smith (Grad School), Nancy Byers-Sprague (Grad Sch), Erik Nordberg (Library)

1) Meeting called to order at 4:05 pm.

2) Review and approval of 01/11/11 meeting minutes.

3) Committee Reports:
   a. Dismissal/Appeal Grievance Policy (D. Charlesworth): The draft policies and procedures will be available as handouts for the GFC members to read at the April 5th meeting.

4) Old Business:
   a. Graduate School Dean Performance Review (B. Yarroch): The GFC rep on the committee will be Nancy Auer. For a complete list of the committee, please see the handout section on the GFC website.

5) New Business:
   a. Dean’s Fellowship (Dean Huntoon): Based on feedback from the GFC meeting on 12/07/10, Dean Huntoon will reduce the funding commitment (from the departments) from four years to three years. The hope is this will enable departments to nominate more students. You can view the Dean’s Fellowship guidelines at: [http://www.mtu.edu/gradschool/administration/academics/honors-awards/dean-fellowships/application.html](http://www.mtu.edu/gradschool/administration/academics/honors-awards/dean-fellowships/application.html)

   i. Dean Huntoon also wanted to make sure all were aware of the SSEED (Sustained Support to Ensure Engineering Degrees) fellowship opportunity. This NSF grant will help support program recruitment efforts of women and minority graduate students in engineering. During the next four years, the grant will award five fellowships of $8,000 each to qualified first-year graduate students in engineering. For more information, refer back to Dean Huntoon’s email to the GFC list on 01/28/2011.

   b. FY11-17-Text Change to Senate Proposal 21-01 (Framework for Professional Master of Science Degrees)-(Dean Huntoon): Proposal 21-01 which was passed by the Senate in 2001, set up a framework for offering Professional Science Masters (PSM) degrees on campus. At the time this proposal was put into place it followed the nationwide guidelines for PSM programs. In the past ten years the guidelines have changed. The text changes will align with the current nationwide guidelines. One change is that having industry experience is not required for a PSM degree which was one of the biggest impediments for Michigan Tech. Michigan Tech does not have a way for students to participate in an industrial internship while remaining on campus, taking courses. These programs prepare students to enter the work force and meet the needs of industry as soon as they graduate. Questions/Comments: What is the advantage of being accredited by this affiliation? This is not an accreditation. It is more a recognition. A program, such as the master of forestry, could propose to be recognized as a PSM. If the program is approved, the department can indicate that the program is recognized as a PSM. The benefits are that employers who are familiar with PSM know what they are getting when they hire a graduate PSM student. It also shows the State of Michigan
that Michigan Tech is preparing students for jobs in industry and contributing to the economic
development of the state. The second bold heading on the first page should read “Rationale” as opposed to “Rational.” Is there an affiliation fee to belong to this organization? No, there is not a fee. Are these course work only programs? Yes, although a few may have a report option (co-op/internship type report). How do the accelerated programs fit into this? In order to be recognized as a PSM you need to have a program already in existence. If you have a master’s degree that could be earned through an accelerated master’s program then you could propose it (as long as the learning outcomes are aligned with the intention of the PSM program). What programs on campus would want to become a PSM program? Some possibilities are forestry, engineering, computer science, and technology. Motion to approve passed.

6) Motion to adjourn at 4:35 pm.