Minutes of the Graduate Faculty Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

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

**Members** (12): Bill Yarroch (ASE), James Pickens (SFRES), Renfang Jiang (Math), Blair Orr (Peace Corp), Beth Flynn (HU), Amy Marcarelli (Bio Sci), Steve Seidel (Comp Sci), Chris Middlebrook (Elec & Comp Eng), Greg Waite (Geo), Shiyue Fang (Chem), Brian Davis (SOT), Dave Fritz (GSG)

**Guests** (7): Heather Suokas (Grad Sch– recording secretary), Nancy Byers Sprague (Grad Sch), Jim Frendewey, (SOT), Guy Hembroff (SOT), Jackie Huntoon (Grad Sch), Jacque Smith (Grad Sch), Ryan Gilbert (BioMed)

2) Review and approval of 01/19/10 meeting minutes.

3) Old Business
   
a. Graduate Certificates Proposal (B. Yarroch): This proposal is ready for the Senate. The Senate Curricular Committee has made changes to paragraph six and seven. Paragraph six reads, “Credits may be double counted between a single certificate and a single master’s or PhD program.” Paragraph seven reads, “Michigan Tech requires that students earning a graduate certificate complete a minimum of 15 credits beyond the bachelor’s degree. Students concurrently earning a graduate certificate in addition to a graduate degree at Michigan Tech are allowed, with the approval of the certificate program advisor, to complete 12 out of the 15 credits required for the certificate in order to obtain both certificate and graduate degree. A 12 credit certificate will not be awarded until completion of a Michigan Tech graduate degree.” Questions/Comments: Would all the students going for the International Profile Certificate be completing a master's degree at the same time? In theory anybody, including non-degree seeking students can go for this certificate as long as they have a bachelor’s degree. They do not necessarily need to be working toward a graduate degree. If they are working toward a graduate degree then they only need to take twelve credits for this certificate. If a student is not working towards a graduate degree they will need to satisfy the university’s fifteen credit requirement. Dr. Orr and Dr. Rose need to look over their proposal (International Profile) to see how it fits in with this Graduate Certificates proposal. They specifically need to look at the foreign language portion of their proposal. Call for vote to have the Senate Curricular Committee send this to the Senate. All are in favor. This will be passed onto the Senate Curricular Committee.

b. Graduate Certificate in International Profile Proposal (B. Orr): Waiting on the decision from the Senate in regards to the graduate certificates proposal.

c. Proposal to Modify the “Senior Rule” Policy (N. Byers Sprague): There have been two modifications made to this proposal based on the last GFC meeting. The first modification being under “Summary of Changes.” The text in the parenthesis has been changed to “either regular coursework or independent study or special topics courses or a combination of both.” This change stems from the comments made in regards to the text “research credits.” The second being under the “Revised Policy Statement.” Text has been added to state, “however each department/school may set lower maximum allowable credits.” Clarification is needed about what the issue was last meeting in regards to research credits. The committee wanted to ensure that the undergraduate student, if taking research credits (that would apply towards their thesis degree) is taking 5000 (graduate) level rather than 4000 (undergraduate) level. The undergraduate student would only be allowed to take graduate level research credits after they have been formally accepted into one of the graduate programs. The student should apply half way through their junior year. To clarify this
in the proposal, the text under “Summary of Changes” should be changed to say, “either regular coursework or graduate level research.” Generally the student would start graduate level research in their senior year but the way the proposal is written a freshman could apply for this. A statement could be included stating that this is restricted to juniors/seniors. The committee would also like a minimum 3.0 GPA requirement added and/or add a statement that each program/school’s requirements (including GPA) need to be met. What are the regulations for double counting? If a student is admitted into a graduate program they are allowed to double count their credits but if they are not admitted they are not allowed to double count the credits. Each program/school can set the limit of credits that can be double counted. These additional revisions will be added and the proposal will be brought to the next GFC meeting.

d. Master’s Program Security and Medical Informatics (G. Hembroff): There were revisions and clarifications added to this revised proposal. Projected enrollment was added to the last paragraph on the first page. Course substitutions were also added to the course descriptions. Also added are suggested undergraduate majors to page seven. Comments/questions: There is concern regarding the number of new courses proposed. Because of the number of courses, available resources are also a concern. Computer Science needs to be involved in the collaboration of courses. How many positions are going to be needed for this new degree? Three positions will be needed: lecturer on campus, faculty member on campus and an instructor at Marquette General. Is this proposal currently under review by the Dean’s Council and are there changes requested by the Council that are not in the current proposal version? No, there are no changes being requested. Call for a vote to advise Dean Huntoon to send this to the Senate Curricular Committee. Vote: one nay, the rest of the committee is in favor. The dean will send this to the Senate Curricular Committee.

4) New Business

a. Facilities for Women Proposal (L. Nelson Dyble): This is a proposal calling for a committee to investigate the need for and means to achieve a Women’s Center and/or Lactation Facility. Such facilities are becoming the standard on campuses. Comments/Questions: Is this the appropriate group or should this be a university issue (bring to the Provost)? There was some understanding that the group WISE and Chris Anderson were also working on this. Call for a vote to have Dean Huntoon bring this to a Dean’s Council meeting. All are in favor. The dean will bring this to the Provost and report back to GFC.

b. International Dual Degrees Proposal (J. Huntoon): S. Joshi received funding to set up an international dual degree program. What this entails is both a domestic university and a partner university in another country give a single student a diploma. The student actually receives two diplomas however they complete the work equivalent to one degree. A student must complete at least fifty percent of the credits required for a degree at each university. We would be allowing students to transfer in fifty percent of the credits. The justification for this is that the students do a thesis which is jointly supervised by the U.S. university and faculty and the partnering international university and faculty. Michigan Tech has not implemented a program like this before but a university that S. Joshi is working with, North Carolina Sate University has a long history of doing these types of degree programs. We are going to pattern our program after theirs. This proposal has been passed along to the Council of Graduate Schools for their review to ensure that we are not doing anything that is unusual. Their response was that this is a standard program. The Dean’s Council has reviewed and approved this proposal. Questions/Comments: 4a states that a faculty review committee must include a representative from the GFC, representative from the Senate who is also a member of the graduate faculty and the proposing faculty member. The representative from the University Senate should be from either Academic Policy committee or the Curricular Policy committee. Call for a vote to approve. All are in favor.

5) Motion to adjourn at 5:12 pm.