Meeting called to order at 4:06 pm.

2) Review and approval of 09/01/15 meeting minutes.

3) Old Business: No Old Business.

4) New Business:
   a. Changes to GACS (Provost Huntoon) –
      On an annual basis or at least once every two years Jackie has had to go to GFC or the Research Advisory Committee to talk about what is happening with the Graduate Assistant Cost Share program (GACS). This has been a very successful program. Many faculty members have written proposals and have received a commitment or cost share from the Graduate School at the time the Proposal was submitted. If the proposal is funded then the Graduate School commits some funds as cost share. The National Science Foundation and other federal organizations have changed their rules regarding cost share. Due to this change we are not supposed show or talk about cost share in a proposal. As a result we have to change the rules. Now the commitment of GACS is changing. Currently, if you get a commitment of GACS it will be for the tuition component of graduate student support. In the future it will be for summer support, stipend plus one credit of tuition for full time enrollment and this will only be available for extremely large proposals or proposals in which cost share is required. The standard GACS guideline will still apply. Currently the budget is heavily over spent. These changes are being put into place so that we can stay within the budget, keep in alignment with National Science Foundation guidelines and continue to provide cost share when cost share is required. As before if you ever need a commitment that is in addition to what is considered standard GACS you are free to contact Heather Suokas our finance coordinator. The changes will be put in place as of January 1st, 2016.

   Q- What do you consider a large proposal?
   A- Greater than $500,000 per year.

   Q – So this is only for 1 credit of tuition in the summer?
   A – If will cover the summer stipend and the one credit.

   Q- What if the students have enrolled in class?
   A- They can enroll in class and that additional tuition that would be charged would have to be paid for by the department or out of the sponsored project.
The GACS support lasts the duration of the project grant. If there is money left in the GACS when the proposal ends, funds must be returned. However, if your project ends and you write a one year no cost extension, then you will get another year to spend it.

Q- Can GACS support a MS student?
A- It should be used for PhD Students. However, exceptions can be made.

Q With the research mode changes coming, will we also allow three research mode credits in the summer?
A- Yes

Conversation on new research only mode changes - Beginning in January, Research mode will allow students to register for variable number of research credits and be charged the 1/3rd rate. If students register for courses, we will charge the full rate for courses and the special rate for the research credits.

b. Proposal to change PhD degree title (A. Storer)
Proposal for physics to rename their PhD program entitled Engineering Physics. They are proposing to rename that PhD in Applied Physics in part because of the shift in emphasis among staff and faculty away from engineering and towards applied physics. There are minimal changes to the actual degree program. The only change is the qualifying exam which will be changed to an application component, as described in the proposal. This is intended to broaden the scope of the program. Read though and take back to your units and then be ready to vote on this.

Q- How many students will this affect that are current enrolled in the program.
A. We currently have 6 students and they will be graduating soon. A message was sent out to inform the students. After the name is changed we will have one year to use the old name.

Deb mentions that the program could be shelved and then the new program could be created. A. Storer suggests contacting the students to see if there will be any push back.

c. SCS Proposal for 3+1+1 program (Z. Wang)
(A. Storer) Students take 3 years of courses at another institution and then they come to Michigan Tech to take a year of courses here. The MTU credits are then transferred back to their home university. The original university is the one that awards the degree. The students would then stay an additional year to complete the MS program. The proposal would allow students in this program to double count the 6 credits that were applied to their undergraduate degree toward their masters, therefore only having to complete another 24 credits to receive their accelerated masters. What we need to decide is if this is something that we will find allowable within the accelerated masters model.
(Z. Wang) this could also become a future university-wide model not just for the computer science department. A. Guth noted that the 3+1+1 program is only applicable to previously negotiated agreements and not open to just any student who comes here. It makes the negotiated agreements more attractive. (A. Storer) if other programs wanted to do something like this that would be encouraging them to enter into negotiated agreements which ultimately could bring more students into those programs.

Q – Does it impact your student recruitment for graduate school?
A- We want to attract more students to the graduate program. The institutes we have negotiated with have good quality students. When they are here for one semester we know if they will be a good student in the graduate program. Asking them to complete 30
credits is impractical in this department but 24 is doable. This proposal would make graduate school very attractive for these students.
Q: Would this only be with institutions you currently have negotiations with?
A: Yes
Q: Are these students funded by their home university or self-funded?
A: They are self-funded but if they enter into the graduate program it is up the program if we want to fund them.
Q: Does this need to go through the senate?
A: The senate proposal for accelerated masters programs specifically states that only students who intended to complete both their bachelors and their masters at Michigan Tech can enroll in an accelerated master’s program. So we would need to develop a proposal for the senate to amend that.

This program will be subject to the graduate program requirements. Only courses taken at Michigan Tech would be allowed to be double counted towards their master’s degree. The proposal also states that there is a total of 150 credits for the accelerated Masters. It is hard to convert the credits from China or India. If they can double count their Michigan Tech undergraduate courses it will be more accessible for the students to complete the Masters in the accelerated time. This proposal should match the current accelerated master’s program.

Q: What range of credits are we talking about in the students 4th year?
A: An issue we will need to address is how many credits should they take here at Michigan Tech in order to double count 6 credits. We could put in a requirement that during their time here they must take a minimum number of credits, whatever that number might be. Possibly 30 credits. Modifications will be made to the proposal to reflect this issue.
Q: Will this have to undergo a financial review. Could numbers be run on existing students to project how many students you would need in order for it to be cost neutral.
A: Yes, we can do this.

d. Graduate Program Review (Associate Dean Murthy)
   - Every program should undergo a data informed self-evaluation every five years.
     Start off with possibly 4- 5 departments a year.
   - Handouts contain the slides used and the data that will be provided to the departments.
Q: Will the graduate School be providing data?
A: Yes, if you want additional data you may request it. In some cases you will have to provide data because we don’t know everything that is going on in the department program. For example; what a teacher assistant is doing.
Q: Will you be keeping track of course work masters as well?
A: Yes, we have made some distinctions between the types of masters.
Q: If a school has three masters programs, would an assessment go out for each program?
How long will it take the grad school to report the data to the departments?
A: Yes and the graduate school will be able to collect the data in a timely manner.
We will start the assessment evaluations soon. We are looking for four departments this year to volunteer.

5) Motion to adjourn at 5:02 pm.