Minutes of the Graduate Faculty Council Meeting

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

1) Meeting called to order at 4:08 pm.

**Members** (8): 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)

**Guests** (3): Heather Suokas (Grad Sch– recording secretary), Nancy Byers Sprague (Grad Sch), Barry Solomon (Social Sci)

2) Review and approval of 11/03/09 meeting minutes with the following change: under item b (i) change to b (Sub 1).

3) Old Business
   a. Proposal to Instate a Graduate Dean’s Teaching Award (J. Dong): The changes proposed during the 11/03/09 meeting were made. Comments: In regards to the second paragraph, “at any level for at least two semesters…” It was decided with Dean Huntoon’s approval that the text “for at least two semesters” be eliminated in order for the sentence to read, “at any level within the past academic year.” Reasoning: Forestry’s T.A.s only teach one semester per academic year and this would make them ineligible for nomination. The teaching award was voted on and approved with Dean Huntoon’s approval of the above change.
   b. Graduate Certificates Proposal (B. Yarroch): This was not reviewed nor discussed. The reason being is the Senate Curricula Policy Committee met this morning and reached an impasse in regards to graduate certificates. They are still in debate and may send to the Senate to decide certain things.
   c. Graduate Certificate in International Profile Proposal (B. Orr): Waiting on the decision from the Senate Curricula Policy Committee. Suggestion to pass this on to the Senate Curricula Policy Committee but Dr. Orr wants to keep it at the GFC level in order to address language issues. This will be tabled until the January meeting.
   d. Graduate Program Review (J. Huntoon): No new report.
   e. Dismissal/Appeal/Grievance Policy: (J. Huntoon): This committee will meet next week.

4) New Business
   a. Master’s Program Security and Medical Informatics (G. Hembroff): There was not a representative in attendance to present this proposal. Comments/Questions: Is this the first graduate proposal from the School of Technology? Answer: No, there was a GIS proposal as well. In regards to the curricula: How does this proposal fit into the context of the School of Technology and their Strategic Plan? There seems to be a lot of shadowing of existing degree programs already in place in the School of Technology. What are the admission requirements? There is no program of study given and there are no prerequisites listed. The John Hopkins program of study was listed as a related program. The program was looked at and lists quarter by quarter sequencing that implies prerequisites but they are not listed. The idea of the program is a good one but the wording of the title is in question. Informatics means data mining and extracting information from it. The proposal itself sounds more like databases and network administration not informatics. School of Technology’s faculty seems to be
overstretched and this seems like a very ambitious program. A lot of the courses listed seem similar and it also seems like they are doing the same kind of thing in a lot of different places. Medical Informatics is different than the Business Computer Science program because the informatics emphasizes security throughout many of their courses. It seems like they could extract the topic from the courses then reuse. There are no courses outside the School of Technology. Two of the faculty listed for this program do not have terminal degrees. How do these two faculty members have tenure-track appointments? There is no information about the staff at Marquette General Hospital (in the proposal it says Marquette General will be partnering with the School of Technology to provide comprehensive education and research). This is a plan A research-based degree but the faculty may not have the resources to handle this program. What are the active areas of research and what kind of projects will be worked on? (There was not a representative present to answer these questions). Due to these comments it was suggested that James Frendewey (Interim Dean of School of Technology) accompany the presenter to the next GFC meeting. Because there was not a presenter at the meeting this proposal has not been officially “opened” and will be on the agenda in January.

b. PhD Proposal in Environmental Policy (B. Solomon): This new Environmental and Energy Policy Ph.D. program will prepare students to conduct research in support of societal decisions regarding environmental- and energy-policy goals, strategies and programs. The hope is to start the program in fall 2010 on a small scale (possibly start with only admitting existing Michigan Tech students). This program was considered in the past but the department did not have adequate faculty support nor resources. The department recently hired three new faculty members. This is based in the department of Social Science but they would like to allow participation from faculty from Economics and Science and Engineering. There is a three to four year expectation of completion and if the student comes in with an existing master’s degree in environmental policy or something similar, that would take of one year off of their course work. Comments: Have the three business faculty listed on the proposal gone through the dean? Yes. How is the Industrial Archaeology program progressing? The program is progressing well. It is a small program but they have enough funding. Energy Policy concentration listed as upper level 5000 courses. Is this reasonable? This degree is not for all but with suitable background the course work should not be a problem. In the future will there be more energy policy economic specific courses. Hopefully new hires will bring further expertise and then the program can add courses? Have the resource requirements been discussed with the Provost? Discussions have been with Dr. Seely. Is there a danger of starting this program and then not receiving grants and possibly endangering tenure lines? Funding is available currently. Call for a vote to inform Dean Huntoon that the GFC would like to advance this proposal to the Senate. Unanimous vote to move forward to the Senate.

c. Proposal to Form Committee on Campus Facilities for Women (L. Nelson Dyble): Presenter not in attendance. This item will remain on the agenda.

6) Next meeting will occur on the third Tuesday in January (19).

6) Motion to adjourn at 4:49 pm.