Minutes of the Graduate Faculty Council Meeting

Tuesday 2/19/08 4:00 pm

0) Meeting called to order at 4:09 pm

Members (13): Brian Davis (Technology), Nancy Auer (Biology-President), Jim Frendewey (Business), Emily McCarthy (GSC), Jimmy Diehl (GMES), Beth Flynn (RTC), Wm. Yarroch (ASE), Jianping Dong (SMAG), Pat Martin (SS), Shekar Joshi (Forestry), Jackie Huntoon (Graduate School), Judith Perlinger (EPD2), Brad Baltensperger (CLS)

Guests (3): Joanne Polzien (Research Compliance), Jacqui Whitman (Graduate School – recording secretary)

1) Minutes from 2/5/08 were reviewed. Brian Davis made motion to accept, Wm. Yarroch seconded, unanimous approval of minutes.

2) Old Business
   a) GFC-Senate Pathway – Jackie Huntoon, Resolution was handed out. This resolution was established to clearly define respective roles of the GFC and the University Senate. Senate’s functions include several that have a direct relationship to graduate education. The intention of the document was to establish the fact that Senate will channel all matters related to Graduate Education through the GFC before taking action. Discussion began about why we needed to provide the Senate a synopsis of our minutes when GFC meetings are open and minutes are posted and brief enough as is. Suggestion was made to have University Senate send a representative to the GFC meetings to get necessary info. Motion was made to amend proposal with this change. J. Perlinger abstained from voting, the rest accepted.
   b) Discussion of proposals from last meeting – Jackie Huntoon, Discussion centered on the fact that it was very worthwhile to implement a Geospatial program. However the program needs to be interdisciplinary rather than specific. It was mentioned that we’re not a big enough school to have two different Geospatial programs and it’s not necessary. Dean Huntoon asked if she should have Forestry and School of Technology work together. Group unanimously agreed. Dean Huntoon will get back to respective parties with GFC’s ideas.
   c) Judith Perlinger, proposal to change definition of external reviewer on defense committee. Delayed until next meeting.

3) New Business
   a) Meetings in absence of Dean Huntoon, Nancy Auer – asked how GFC meetings should be handled if Dean Huntoon could not make it to a regularly scheduled meeting. Options are to carry on the meeting without her or to reschedule it. No one spoke up. Dean Huntoon suggested rescheduling so that she could attend. Therefore the March 4th meeting has been rescheduled for March 18th.
b) Frequency of Meetings, Nancy Auer – The decision was made to add a second “catch-up” meeting during the month, every other week on Tuesdays. This second meeting is tentative and used when there is a back log of topics to cover. The new schedule is as follows; March 18th, April 1st - catch up, April 15th.

c) Academic Integrity Investigative Committee, Joanne Polzien – Looking to appoint GFC member to Graduate Research Integrity Committee. This committee would investigate allegations of plagiarism for graduate students. It is different from the inquiry committee as the inquiry committee recommends if there is enough evidence to proceed with an investigation. Joanne explained she was hoping this would become a standing committee, as it would be hard to train new members each time they’re needed. The committee would be made up of a Senate rep, Ombudsperson, Judicial Affairs rep, Research Compliance rep and GFC member. Experience not necessarily needed, but good common sense, ethics, ability to be fair and impartial is desired. Will provide training before investigation begins. Will only be investigating graduate students. This committee will be advising the Dean of the Graduate School. Due to time running out, Nancy Auer offered to pass this information on via email to all GFC members in hopes of someone volunteering.

Meeting adjourned at 5:07pm.