Graduate Faculty Council

Minutes - March 22, 2001

Graduate Faculty Council

Minutes of 3/22/01 meeting

Meeting began at 4:10; no quorum, but discussion on several issues

Present: Bruce Mork (EE), Vicky Bergvall (RTC), Mark Roberts (SBE), Jim Mihelcic (CEE), John Sutherland (ME-EM); Neil Hutzler (CoE), Jo Deaton (GSC), Marilyn Urion (Grad School)


4 issues discussed:

1. Grad Dean Search committee membership settled
2. Grad student recruitment
3. M Sci degree proposal
4. Transfer credits/residency (esp. for distance ed programs)

1) Grad Dean Search committee membership settled

Final appointees and elected members:

- Administration/Dean: Glen Mroz
- Dept. Chair: Bob Baillod (elected chair of committee as well)
- GSC representative: Michelle Trim (HU)
- Staff: Betty Chavis

2) Grad student recruitment (Neil Hutzler)

Visit by five PhD candidates flown in by College of Engineering, went well, great camaraderie.

- But: library visit not possible (not open Sat. morning)
- Hard questions about financial aid, health insurance

Need to upgrade web presence for better recruiting

- Problems with consistency of look/accessibility by outsiders, but also
- Problems with local control of content/look
- Need localized support

Need coordination from University level, plus budget dedicated to grad recruitment

3) M Sci degree proposal

- formed under model of M. Engg. in College of Engineering
- questions:
  - How are programs added?
  - How is oversight of new programs managed?
  - Who should sign off on the addition of new degree programs, whether or not new resources
are requested? What is approval path?
  - Where are resources to be approved? GFC, Senate level approval

- differences from M. Engg. model:
  - not always already a cognate/variant degree program within the Science and Arts department

- residency issues
- Threshold of triggers for higher approval seem to be based on new resources requested: if needs new resources, has to have more approvals.
- What to call degree to keep it separate from a Masters of Science (emphasize practical side of this new degree, therefore practicum important.

4) Transfer credits/Residency

1. M Engg has 15 credits taken at MTU; note catalog says 1/3 max of coursework may be transferred in from elsewhere
2. New standard: 1/2 plus 1 credit must be taken at MTU?
3. Is Practicum to be considered "research" or "coursework" (Answer: Coursework)
4. New system for transferring in credits? Proposed maximums:
   - 1/3 of credits from participating MIGS (courses come in with grades)
   - 1/3 without grades
   - 1/3 from MTU?
5. Residence thus set at or near 50% for distance ed?
6. Therefore consider relaxing all MS requirements to allow 50% of coursework credits to be transferable?

COMING ISSUES:

- tuition scholarships (for 1 credit, while students finish degrees, without stipend)
- setting caps on paying for credits taken by students; accounting problems

Discussion ended around 5:25 PM