Minutes of the Graduate Faculty Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 18, 2008

0) Meeting called to order at 4:06 pm.
   Members (13): Nancy Auer (Biology), Emily McCarthy (GSC), Yuliya Strizhakova (Business), Shakar Joshi (Forestry), Wm. Yarroch (ASE), Jackie Huntoon (Grad School), Pat Martin (SS), Brian Davis (Technology), Beth Flynn (Humanities), Judith Perlinger (EPD2), Rupak Rajachar (Biomed), Alex Mayer (Geo), Craig Friedrich (MEEM)
   Guests (3): Nancy Byers Sprague (Grad School), Deb Charlesworth (Grad School), Jacqui Whitman (Grad School – recording secretary)

1) Minutes from 2/19/08 were reviewed. Yarroch made motion to accept, Davis seconded. All voted. Minutes were accepted.

2) Old Business
   a) Further discussion on GFC/Senate policy- Nancy Auer, University Senate requests Graduate Faculty Council Meeting Minutes be emailed to the Senate secretary each month. Grad Faculty Council secretary will do this.
   b) Discussion of orientation and any changes based on proposal from February- Deb Charlesworth, Graduate School orientation for the upcoming Fall Semester will take place on two afternoons. The first afternoon session will consist of general graduate school information followed by round table discussions that prove to be very effective. This session is highly recommended. The second afternoon session will be all about academic integrity and research misconduct. This session is required. Beth Flynn brought up the fact that Humanities has an extensive 10 day orientation that conflicts with the Graduate School’s orientation. Deb Charlesworth will work with any department that has existing schedule conflicts. She also suggested reviewing the orientation process in the fall and making changes as needed. Decision was made to have orientation on Thursday and Friday afternoon of orientation week.
   c) Proposal to change definition of external reviewer for non-departmental and interdisciplinary PhD program defense committee – Judith Perlinger, Proposes that the outside committee member may be affiliated with the program but not with the student’s administrative home department. Argument for this is that outside reviewers who are affiliated with the interdisciplinary/non-departmental program can bring expertise that other outside members cannot. The question was raised as to what the function of the outside member truly is? If the outside reviewer is there to provide a system of checks and balances, it should remain someone that knows nothing about the subject. External reviewers may raise a flag when other committee members of one particular department will not. Consensus was to take this issue back to each department for discussion and the Grad Faculty Council will discuss in more detail in 2 weeks (April 15).
3) New Business
   a) **Comprehensive exam and proposal defense reporting** – Nancy Byers Sprague, What are the landmark time periods for each department? Not all departments have set dates for comprehensive exams or defense, so may be a bit difficult to standardize. Goal is to graduate students and get them out contributing to the workforce. Some students are taking way too long to complete their degrees. Extension requests will not always be granted. Nancy Byers Sprague does her best to nudge them along, but departments should start nudging too. Please send Nancy Byers Sprague your department’s landmark dates or other tracking system if one is in place.

   b) **Replacement needed for Jackie Huntoon’s review committee.** Jimmy Diehl needs to be replaced. Judith Perlinger volunteered.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm