Minutes of GFC Meeting
January 25, 2001
Blue Room, 4pm

Bruce Mork convened the meeting at 4:05pm

Attending:

Graduate Programs: Bruce Mork (EE), Vicky Bergvall (RTC), Steve Carr (CS), Jim Mihelcic (CEE), Sarah Green (CH), Chung-Jui Tsai (SFWP), Casey Huckins (BL), Madhu Vable (MEEM), Mark Roberts (SBE), Walt Milligan (MSE), Susan Bagley (BL),

Other representatives: Neil Hutzler (COE), Marilyn Urion (GS), Jo Deaton (GSC),

Programs not represented: Geological Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Social Science, Mining, and Physics

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Executive Summary:

1. Heard an update on the VP for Research search.
2. Heard an update on graduate distance education programs.
3. Heard an update on the search for a Dean of the Graduate School.
4. Heard an update on graduate program review.

Important Items:

1. A task force is being formed to look into "Competitiveness in Graduate Student Recruiting" as this is one of the issues being addressed in the university's strategic plan. Jo Deaton of GSC and Neal Hutzler have volunteered as task force members. A coordinator is needed. Do we have a volunteer?
2. A task force whose charge is to supply suggestions to the Graduate School on arrangements for remote degree programs, residency requirements, etc. is being formed. Sarah Green has volunteered. We need another volunteer. John Sutherland was mentioned as a possible contributor but the was not at the meeting. Will John or another GFC member volunteer?
3. Lee Oberto and his Senate committee are now moving on the Dean of the Graduate School Search procedure. Vicky and John Jaszczak are standing by ready to work with Lee's committee. The Provost will also be providing input. The January 17th memo that suggests search committee makeup and the functional description developed last fall by Marilyn have been forwarded to Lee's committee, and are attached here for your reference. GFC members should note that may be asked on short notice to give feedback on the proposed search procedure. We would like to handle
this by e-mail to ensure that the process moves forward as quickly as possible.
4. All members of the GFC are request to get department feedback on the idea of reducing the committee size for an M.S. from 4 to 3 people.

Extended Minutes

Degree Programs

1. The new Forestry spin-off Ph.D. was approve by the State Board of Academic officers 15-0.
2. The Computer Science Ph.D. was also approved by the State Board of Academic Officers 15-0.
3. The Master’s in Applied Science Education received Senate approval.

Update on VP for Research

Walt Milligan and Susan Bagley gave an update on the search for a VP for Research. A position description has been done and the items in the GFC report made it into the description. Next, the description will go up to President and Provost for review. Then, there will be a time of public comment. After the public comment period is done a final description will immediately be sent out as an advertisement. The Provost hopes to finish the search by end of Spring term. Note that this search will not be restricted to academia. Anyone who know of a wide-reaching publication within his or her discipline in which the advertisement should be put, please notify Walt or Susan.

Distance Ed Graduate Degrees

Marilyn Urion gave an update on the current state of our distance education graduate programs. She noted several problems that currently exist. Some students have been told that residency requirement can be waived, which is incorrect. Tom Snyder has reported that he believes all of our distance ed programs are out of compliance with university residency requirements. See above for a GFC task for that is being organized to work on this problem.

Dean of Graduate School Search

Bruce Mork gave an update on the status of the search for a Dean of the Graduate School. A committee makeup has been formulated for the search:

1 Forestry
2 College of Engineering
2 College of Science and Arts
1 Business
Vicky Bergvall and John Jaszczak will be working with the Senate on this search. See above for more details.

**Graduate Program Review**

Marilyn Uron gave an update on the program review for graduate programs. The Provost wants the undergrad and grad programs of a department to be reviewed together. There will be two reviewers for each program: one with expertise in graduate education and one with expertise in undergraduate education.

**Other Issues**

1. **Competitiveness in recruiting grad students**

   See above for information regarding a task force that is being form to look into these issues. Marilyn Uron reminded everyone that recruiting fellowships are available. Departments need recruiting plan and department funds to match the fellowship.

2. **Dave Ouellette will be asked to look at adding P/F option for grad students.**

3. **The GFC will try to get time a Board of Control meetings to update the Board on our activities. It was thought that we could use part of the Provost’s time slot.**

4. **It was suggest that we get graduate faculty representation at upcoming strategic planning retreat.**

5. **Bruce Mork indicated that he will be updating the details in GFC structure statement.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:20pm.