Graduate Faculty Council  
Tuesday 9/5/06 4:00pm

1. Introduction of members (see attendance list)
2. Open nominations for GFC President
   • Jason Keith volunteers
   • Approved unanimously
3. Open nominations for Secretary
   • David Tobias volunteers
4. Graduate School Dean Jackie Huntoon updates
   • definition of “external committee” members updated
   • definition of “graduate faculty” updated
5. Proposal for new “Atmospheric Sciences” PhD program
   • Huntoon: if approved here, will move up the ladder for final approval
   • Raymond Shaw: background and summary, see proposal document
   • Richard Honrath: expanded on rationale for degree; discussed some financials
   • Questions:
     * similar to CS&E degree? yes
     * anticipate approval problems at state level? no
     * # of PhDs授予/year in this field? unknown
     * potential for NSF/other funding for curriculum development? yes, possible
     * how much existing Atmos. Sci. work @ MTU reflects interdisciplinary collaboration? some
     * main advantage/driving rationale? education possibilities for students; attract new students;
       improve interaction among current Atmos. Sci. students
     * “home department” concept = problems? potential, but advanced level of students should
       minimize
     * plan for promoting? yes, has started already
   • Comment: GFC approval would raise MTU programs visibility
   • Call the question- unanimous approval: “GFC advises the Graduate School that it recommends
     Atmospheric Sciences PhD program for approval”
6. Other Comments
   • Huntoon: Should Lecturers/Instructors/other Staff be part of ‘Graduate Faculty’ if in
     possession of terminal degree?
     * Huntoon proposes to rescind current practice of automatic appointment in favor of a ‘letter
       of invitation’ followed by an approval process including approval by Department Chair (or
       equivalent) with simple cover sheet and C.V.
   • Questions
     ◊ are there many applicants? yes
     ◊ define details of proposed application process: would require a sponsor Department
       and approval by that Department’s Chair (or equivalent)
     ◊ what is motivation for staff to be part of Graduate Faculty? primarily to be allowed to
       teach Graduate level classes, advise Graduate students, or serve on Graduate students
       committees
     ◊ what about post-Docs? currently ‘no’ but perhaps ‘yes’
   • Comments
     ◊ some issues w.r.t. temporary/transient Graduate Faculty members who then move on;
       potential funding issues
     ◊ there will always be potential issues; almost impossible to account for every
       possibility
   * Huntoon will send out a proposal and GFC may discuss as Old Business at next meeting
   • Many thanks to Dennis Lynch for his work as ‘05-‘06 GFC President
7. Meeting adjourned at 4:55pm
Attendance (Affiliation)
Dennis Lynch (President)
Richard Hourath (Atmospheric Science PhD proposal / CHE)
Raymond Shaw (Atmospheric Science PhD proposal / Physics)
William Yarrock (Education)
Tess Ahlborn (CEE)
Jianping Dong (Math)
Martin Thompson (Chemistry)
Alex Mayer (Geology alternate)
Brian Davis (School of Technology)
Soner Onder (Computer Science)
Judith Perlinger (EPD2)
Sonia Goltz (Business and Economics)
Beth Flynn (Humanities)
Carl Anderson (ME-EM)
Jason Keith (Chemical Engineering)
Brian Fick (Physics)
Kurt Pregitzer (SFRES)
Nancy Auer (Biology)
David Tobias (GSC)