The Graduate Faculty Council (GFC) met on December 7, 2004 in the ROTC Blue Room.

**Depts/Programs represented:** Brent Lekvin (SBE), Joe Holles (CM), Pushpa Murthy (Chem), Neil Hutzler (CEE), Kedmon Hungwe (Educ.), Kurt Pregitzer (SFRES), John Gierke (GMES), Sandra Boschetto-Sandoval (HU), H. Wang (MSE), Jianping Dong (Math), Bill Endres (MEEM), Barry Solomon (SS), Marilyn Vogler (GS), Justin Priestman (GSC).

**Depts/Programs/Offices not represented:** Biological Sciences, Biomedical Engineering, Computer Sciences, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Physics, Research Office

**Guests:** None

1. President Kurt Pregitzer opened the meeting at 4:05.
2. John Gierke volunteered to record and distribute the minutes for the December meeting.
3. Agenda Items:
   A. Committee Reports
      i. Recruitment and Graduation (RAG): No report: will meet and elect chair
      ii. Remuneration & Benefits (R & B):
         1. GSC to resubmit stipend survey for evaluation by R&B
         2. GSC to resubmit benefit benchmark survey for evaluation by R&B
      iii. Rewards & Recognition (R & R): report by outgoing chair S. Boschetto-Sandoval
         1. DeVlieg selected and given to Dean Reed (5 PhD nominations, 1 MS nomination; 2 PhD awards, 1 MS award)
         2. S. Boschetto-Sandoval will be replaced by Dennis Lynch for spring semester.
   B. Discussion/Action Items:
      i. Dismissal policy for graduate students.
         1. Authority for dismissal is possessed by the Graduate Dean
         2. Graduate Bulletin has the procedure (see attached)
         3. Departments should articulate a procedure and provide it to the Graduate School for review/approval.
      ii. Graduate faculty appointment procedures.
         1. Discussion was held about whether automatic appointment of graduate faculty status could be established for faculty with terminal degrees in his/her field.
2. Marilyn Vogler will check with Human Resources about stream-lining the current policy, which essentially requires departments to submit a memo/form for requesting appointment.

3. Plan C policies: what is next?
   a. Departments with the greatest interest in changing the current procedures should spearhead the effort.
   b. Benchmarking is needed. GSC will resubmit their data on current policies at benchmark institutions.

iii. Senior Rule Concerns: Tabled until next meeting; below are the relevant information from the November minutes on this issues:

   *Marilyn Vogler introduced a new issue of concern that undergraduates can take courses under “Senior Rule” at a tuition rate that is lower (if they are Michigan Residents) than the graduate student tuition rate. This provides students an opportunity, since there is no cap on Senior Rule credits, for a student to complete any amount of graduate coursework without being enrolled in a graduate program. Many representatives felt this was not a significant issue in their programs, as most students are funded on assistantships that pay for the tuition, so for their programs students have a financial incentive to delay taking courses for their graduate degree until accepted and enrolled in the graduate program. The incentive for these students to take classes under Senior Rule are to: 1) hit the ground running upon graduate enrollment, 2) potentially finish their graduate program sooner, and 3) maintain fulltime status as an undergrad when fewer than 12 credits are needed to graduate. The concerns over exploiting this potential path to paying less tuition using Senior Rule could be more prevalent in programs where the students pay their own tuition (i.e., self supported students). This issue was discussed generally without coming to a conclusion.*

C. University GFC calendar to be discussed at the next meeting.

The GFC adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Reported by J.S. Gierke
MTU Academic Dismissal and Change of Status Policies


Academic Dismissal, Change of Status, and Grievance (Grievance process not included here)

Dismissal

If for any reason the faculty concludes that the student is not meeting the expected standards, the Dean of the Graduate School, on the advice of the student’s Advisory Committee and the Department Chairperson, may require the student to withdraw. The following procedure will be followed:

1. The Advisory Committee meets with the student and provides the student with the reasons which, in their professional judgment, indicate that progress in course work, research, or other requirements has not been satisfactory and that completion of the degree program is not likely. The student is given the opportunity to reply orally or in writing. The Committee evaluates the student's reply and subsequently forwards a written recommendation to the Department Chairperson with a copy going to the student.

2. The Department Chairperson evaluates the Advisory Committee's recommendation and discusses the recommendation with the student. If the Department Chairperson agrees with the recommendation and is satisfied that the student understands the basis for the recommendation and has had an opportunity to reply, a letter recommending dismissal is sent to the Dean of the Graduate School, together with the supporting documentation.

3. When the Dean of the Graduate School is satisfied that there is a basis for dismissal and that the student has been afforded due process, the Dean writes a letter to the student on behalf of the University terminating the student's status in the Graduate School.

Change of Academic Status

In some cases a student who is not meeting the expected standards for the PhD program may be allowed to transfer to the MS program in lieu of withdrawal. The Dean of the Graduate School may require this change of status on the advice of the student's Advisory Committee and the Department Chairperson. The following procedure will be followed:

1. The Advisory Committee meets with the student and provides the student with the reasons which, in their professional judgment, indicate that progress in course work, research, or other requirements has not been satisfactory and that completion of a PhD degree is not likely. The Committee recommends transfer to the MS program if they judge that the student is likely to successfully complete that degree program. A written recommendation for a change of status is sent to the Department Chairperson with a copy to the student.

2. The Department Chairperson evaluates the Advisory Committee's recommendation, discusses it with the student, and allows the student to respond. If the Department Chairperson agrees with the recommendation and is satisfied that the student understands the basis for the recommendation, a letter recommending a change of status to the MS program is sent to the Dean of the Graduate School, together with the supporting documentation.

3. When the Dean of the Graduate School is satisfied that there is a basis for status change and that the student has been afforded due process, the student will be transferred to the MS program and will be notified in writing of the change.