The Graduate Faculty Council (GFC) met on May 4, 2004 in the ROTC Blue Room.  

**Depts/Programs represented:** Paul Nelson (SBE), Jason Keith (CM), Sarah Green (Chem), Neil Hutzler (CEE) Soner Onder (CS), Kedmon Hungwe (Educ.), Linda Nagel (FRES), John Gierke (GMES), Dennis Lynch (HU), H. Wang (MSE), Mark Gockenbach (Math), Oner Arici (MEEM), Barry Solomon (SS), Bruce Rafert and Marilyn Vogler (GS), Michelle Trim (GSC).  

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

**Guests:** None  

1. President John S. Gierke opened the meeting at 4:06 PM.  

2. Administrative Business.  
   A. The minutes of April 6, 2004 approved.  
   B. Gierke presented the agenda for the meeting.  

3. Agenda Items:  
   A. Proposals and Qualities (Ps & Qs)  
      - Modification of External Committee Membership Policies for MS & PhD Advisory Committees. Approved 12 in favor, none against.  
      - Modification of the Oral Exam Requirement for Plan C MS  
        - Eliminate the university requirement for an oral exam for Plan C (departments could still require an oral exam). Approved 11 in favor 1 against  
        - Eliminate the requirement for an external member to serve on Plan C oral exams (departments could still require an external member). Approved 11 in favor 1 against.  
      - GSO will announce each department about these changes and solicit policy update  
      - Each student joining the Graduate School will be governed by the rules applicable at the year of initiation  
      - There are no Ps & Qs issues that remain unresolved for next year. This ad hoc committee is not necessarily needed.  
   B. Recruitment and Graduation (RAG)  
      - No report.  
   C. Remuneration & Benefits (R & B)  
      - Trim provided one page handout. Summarized ongoing progress/issues on GS health benefits. Some of the key points made:  
        - There are only two Preferred Providers of Michigan associated with Blue Cross available.  
        - MTU GS health benefit program is not cost effective
- How can we have health insurance without loosing too many benefits
- Paying premiums may not be an optimum solution – putting money in a pool may be an option
- Trim asked for inputs and comments from departments

D. Rewards & Recognition (R & R)

• Onder provided handouts
• It is recommended that a generic application form be developed for internal awards that have no formal application process in place. He is seeking input.
• He shared his concern in conflict of interest in deciding awards
• Gierke suggested that there are not enough awards; plaques, more forms of recognition for graduate students should be considered
- Vogler mentioned GS dissertation award, also mentioned was outstanding thesis/paper award.
- Trim recommended MTU Service Award
• R & R has been charged to recommend new award structures

E. Status of the Dean of Graduate School Review

• Nelson briefed the GFC about the review process.
• Mentioned that review committee unanimously recommended reappointment of the Dean of Graduate School.

F. In closing Rafert acknowledged the hard work and the exemplery leadership of John Gierke as GFC president. GFC agreed.

4. New Business - None

The GFC adjourned at 5:00 PM.
Reported by O. Arici
GFC Secretary