Minutes of the
Graduate Faculty Council
Michigan Technological University
3/12/2002

Attending:
Oner Arici, Casey Huckins, Sarah Green, Jim Mihelecic, John Jaszcak, Chung-Jui Tsai, Mark Gockenbach, Vicky Bergvall, Mary Durfee, Marilyn Urion, Neil Hutzler, Bruce Rafert.

Visitors: Becky Petteys (ME-EM Grad student) and Robyn Johnson (ME-EM).

Meeting opened by Mary Durfee, President at 4:03 PM in the ROTC Blue Room. Mary passed out the agenda. Minutes of the February meeting were approved.

1. Ballot vote for Non-Dept.. PhD. Committee. Mary passed out ballots with 4 candidates. Secretary Jaszcak collected the ballots. Top 3 vote winners were: R. Honrath, B. Solomon, D. Wright.

2. Discussion of handouts by Rewards Working Group:

Reward to faculty for including undergraduates in research.
Name suggested: Faculty Undergraduate-Research Excellence Award.
Suggestions were made to consider moving the due date?
Membership: Since the “Rewards subcommittee” might not always exist, their membership component on the selection committee was changed to members selected by GFC. This reward to be used solely for the continuing participation of undergraduates in research. Approved.

GFC Grad Student Travel Award.
Student must: give a presentation at the conference; provide timeline for timely publication in scholarly venue (proceedings or journal); submit abstract
Approved.

GFC Graduate Student Teaching Award. Discussion: assure member of GSC and GFC on committee.
Approved.

3. Rules about GTA allocation:

Concerns were brought up about how discussions are currently going in the Science & Arts college. Engineering is just getting started. The dialog in the colleges is not easy. Rafert encouraged continued thinking & dialoging about making allocation strategy formulae/algorithm for the - based on need & merit, as already outlined by his office since those algorithms will be used in the next round of allocations.

4. Elimination of oral exam for MS C-option. Proposal: Grad School should eliminate oral exam for C-option MS (as a grad school requirement). Departments could maintain more stringent requirements (make this very clear in the grad catalogs so future faculty realize this). MTU doesn't offer MA. There was a consensus to recommend elimination of the oral exam to the Dean GS.
Possible discussion for next year: Should we eliminate the MS C-option altogether?

5. MEng/Civil & MEng/Env. Spin off. Proposal to be put on April Agenda. Please read handout.

8. Stipends & Benefits. Handout given (was also emailed). Michelle will draft additional paragraph about benefits costs and GFC acceptability. GFC should be involved in future tuition discussions regarding graduate students. Give Mary feedback on employment philosophical issue.

9. Uniform acceptance & offer letters. Marilyn Urion presented ideas:

   Students need:
   - Timely response to application.
   - Terms of support.
   - What constitutes satisfactory progress as it is related to getting support.
   - Orderly process for termination of support.
   - General terms and regulations adhered to.
   - New grad student orientation program scheduled for fall- required.

GFC members wanted more flexibility and more collegial sound in the letters. This is to be discussed in email.

-J. Jaszcak, Secretary