Minutes of GFC Meeting
August 28, 2001

The meeting convened at 4:10pm

Attending:

Graduate Programs: Vicky Bergvall (RTC), Steve Carr (CS), Sarah Green (CH) John Sutherland (MEEM) and Casey Huckins (BL), Richard Honrath (CEE), Mark Gockenbach (Math), Mary Durfee (SS), Julie King(CM), Tom Courtney (MSE), Chung-Jui Tsai (SFWP), John Jaszczak (PH)

Other representatives: Neil Hutzler (COE), Michelle Trim (GSC)


Executive Summary:

1. The Graduate Faculty Council (GFC) nominated Mary Durfee (Social Sciences) as President of the GFC and her name has been forwarded to the Graduate Dean. Sarah Green (CH) was nominated for and has agreed to serve as Vice President of the GFC. John Jaszczak (PH) was nominated for and has agreed to serve as Secretary of the GFC.
2. The agenda items for the year were discussed. This agenda for the upcoming year will deal heavily with graduate student issues.

Nomination and Election of Officers

The GFC nominated only one person for each office to serve in this coming year. The nominees are

   President: Mary Durfee (SS)
   VP: Sarah Green (CH)
   Secretary: John Jaszczak (PH)

Since each office has only one nominee, the GFC agreed by consent to forward Mary Durfee’s nomination to the Graduate Dean of approval, and to have Sara Green and John Jaszczak serve as officers.
GFC Agenda for 2001-2002

The next topic of discussion was the items on this year’s agenda. The agenda for 2001-2002 will include the following items:

- Review of new degree programs (e.g., PhD Biomedical Engineering)
- Issues deal with resources for MS vs. PhD programs.
- Methods for the allocation of TAs.
- Administration of remote graduate programs.
- The role of PhD students in teaching classes. This issue arises with retiring teaching faculty being possibly replaced by PhD students.
- Stipends for graduate students (See www.sos.mtu.edu/GSC for a survey on cost of living for Tech graduate students).
- Startup funding for new faculty.
- Reducing MS committee size from 4 to 3.
- Adding a pass/fail option for some graduate classes and seminars.
- Increasing GFC representation on university committees.
- Re-examination of the structure of GFC.
- Affordable, decent health care for graduate students.
- The lack of graduate student culture on campus.
- The availability of the library for graduate students.
- ESL and transition help for international graduate students.
- The issue of continuing enrollment.
- Making the oral defense for the coursework MS optional.