

MTU RESEARCH ADVISORY COUNCIL RAC

January 21, 2005

1:30PM
ROOM 305 ADMIN

Minutes

Dave Reed opened the meeting by introducing Dr. Martyn R. Smith, Dean of the Graduate School.

Short Term Leave of Absence

Anita Quinn discussed the current Short-Term Leave of Absence policy which states:

The PI can usually take a leave of absence up to three months (90 days) without a sponsor requiring a replacement. In most cases, if a sponsor requires that an alternate PI is named for shorter absences, then the procedures under "Long-term leave of absence" will be followed. The PI must still inform Research & Sponsored Programs as stated above so that the University and the sponsor can take the necessary steps to ensure the project continues to progress.

Anita asked that the committee approve a change the internal policy time period from 90 days to a semester. Yearlong leaves would require a letter from the PI, which states the plan for the management of the project in their absence. Discussion led to the decision that the Sabbatical Request Form could also be changed to include this project management information. Research and Sponsored Programs would then disseminate this information to the sponsor.

ACTION: Anita will change the internal policy time length to semester and work on having the project management information added to the sabbatical request form.

Search for Graduate School Dean Update

Dave Reed updated the committee on the search for a Graduate School Dean. The process is underway with the committee being formed and members finalized by mid-February. The committee will develop a position description and job posting along with conducting a search. The tentative deadline for the position description being finalized is mid-March. Staff council will nominate one representative. The goal is to have a Dean in place by Fall Semester 2005. This is an internal search.

Graduate School Maximum Stipend Levels

The National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institute of Health (NIH) have raised their stipend funding levels to \$30-31,500 which is above MTU's set maximum. Due to these new funding levels, we have had to make exceptions; currently we have seven exceptions. Dave has asked the GFC and GSC to review this level increase, and approve raising the maximums to the current NSF/NIH levels.

ACTION: RAC approved raising the maximums and eliminating the 1.5 multiplier, thus alleviating Graduate School Waivers. Graduate Faculty Council will have to approve.

Graduate Faculty Council Update

A movement to appoint new faculty with a Ph.D. directly to the Graduate Faculty was proposed by the Mechanical Engineering Department. This proposal was approved by the GFC.

The GFC proposed to the Senate to have the Plan C MASTER Students Oral Exams eliminated, if the Faculty within a program deems it appropriate. The Senate defeated this proposal. The Grad Faculty is dissatisfied with the Senate decision and will bring the proposal back to the Senate in a new format.

The floor was opened for new discussions. The minutes from previous meetings need to be checked for the list of committee future topics to determine if all of the topics have been addressed. Cathy will bring the list to the next meeting.

The next meeting to be held on Friday February 25, 2005 in the Administration Building Conference Room #305.