Graduate Faculty Council Minutes
January 14, 2020

Members Present: Samantha Smith (App Cog Sci), Tarun Dam, (BMB), Gordon Paterson (Bio Sci), Tim Eisele (Chem Eng), Veronica Webster (Civ & Env Eng), Audrey Meyer (CFSRES), Donald Peck (HI/Mechatronics), Ramon Fonkoue (HU), Eugene Levin (Int Geo Tech), Steve Elmer (KIP), Mari Buche (MBA), Leonard Bohmann (MS of Eng), Craig Friedrich (MEEM), Yoke Khin Yap (Physics), Chelsea Schelly (Soc Sci)

Members Absent: Joel Turoniemi (Acct), Gary Campbell (App Nat Res), Will Cantrell (Atmo Sci), Feng Zhao (Biomed), Ashutosh Tiwari (Chem), Jean Mayo (Comp Sci), Thomas Oommen (Comp Sci & Eng/GMES), Laura Brown, (Data Sci), Mike Roggemann (Ele Comp Eng), Stephen Hackney (MSE), Qiuying Sha (Math), Kari Henquinet (PCorps)

Guests Present: Anna McClatchy, (Dean of Students), Pushpa Murthy (Grad Sch), Jacque Smith (Grad Sch), Mary Stevens (Grad Sch), Deb Charlesworth, (Grad Sch), Erin Matas (Library), Apurah Baruah (GSG)

Approval of November 5, 2019 minutes
The November 5 minutes passed on a voice vote with no discussion.

Business before the University Senate (V. Webster)
The Certificate in Forensic Accounting and Certificate in Accounting Analytics were approved on a voice vote with no dissention or abstention at the December 11 senate meeting.

Proposal 15-20: Tams for Graduating PhDs at Commencement
The proposal will be voted on at the January 22, 2020 meeting and a GFC representative will attend the meeting.

Graduate School Updates
Admissions (P. Murthy, J. Smith)
- Thank you to everyone for processing and making application decisions.
- The total number of applications and accepted students are higher compared to week 20 of last year. However, the Graduate School’s goal is to increase the number of enrolled students. Departments are encouraged to review their graduate student admissions data in WebFocus and reach out to students with incomplete applications.

Coalition for Next Generation Life Science
- Michigan Tech partnered with the Coalition for Next Generation Life Science (CNGLS) last year. Coalition members provide PhD program statistics to increase transparency in graduate education. Admissions, selectivity, and yield rate data submitted by the Graduate School and our peers are available on our web page for programs to review.
  For more information: http://www.mtu.edu/gradschool/about/program-statistics/

Slate
- The Graduate School will start the implementation process of Slate within the next 6 months, a CRM software for communications to applicants.
- Applications, workflow, and event management features will follow.
- The Graduate School will announce when the system will be live for use and can assist with developing communication plans for departments.
- The Graduate School is requesting departments to make decisions soon and departments are
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Conflict
Resolution
Template
(D. Charlesworth)
• The Informal Conflict Resolution Template was approved with no discussion and will be linked on the Graduate School’s web site.
• Anna McClatchy, Student Support Coordinator joined Michigan Tech in December. She has been hired by the Graduate School and Dean of Students to work with both undergraduate and graduate students who may be struggling and not performing well. If you know any students who may be facing a difficult time academically or personally, not attending classes, etc., contact Deb in the Graduate School, Anna or Bonnie or Laura in the Dean of Students office so they can meet with the student and get him or her the resources they need. Anna’s information will soon be added to the Graduate School’s web page.

Graduate Faculty Status Appeal Committee (GFSAC) (P. Murthy)
• Each college nominated one person to be on this committee. Each member will vote for one person from the list. The top three vote recipients will be the three members of the Appeals Committee appointed by the GFC. The other two will be the alternates.
• The Dean will appoint two members to the Appeals Committee. Those two members will be chosen from the colleges not represented by the three members appointed by the GFC.
Sixteen Graduate Faculty Council members voted for one nominee to serve as GFSAC committee member.

Schelly and Gierke received top votes (7 and 6 respectively). A second vote was cast to break the three-way tie between Mayer, Tang, and Srivastava with Mayer receiving 7, Srivastava 5, and Tang 4.

Nominees:

| College of Sciences and Arts: Chelsea Schelly | 7 |
| College of Engineering: John Gierke           | 6 |
| College of Forest Resources and Environmental Science: Audrey Mayer | 7 |
| College of Computing: Jinshan Tang            | 4 |
| College of Business: Manish Srivastava        | 5 |

**Doctoral Candidacy Celebration, 4-6 pm, Wednesday, February 26, 2020 (P. Murthy)**

- The Graduate School will host its first ceremony honoring doctoral candidates who have been awarded candidate status on Wednesday, February 26. Faculty, advisors and family will be invited to celebrate this accomplishment with us. Candidates will get advice on how to finish their dissertation, professional development, using Individual Development Plan, and job options.
- Students, advisors, chairs, and graduate program directors will be invited.
- The Graduate School is reminding everyone that “research mode” is now called “entering candidacy” and tuition will be reassessed at the candidacy rate and candidates are eligible for research mode tuition.

**Current Graduate Student Survey (P. Murthy)**

- The Dean of Students sends the Current Student Survey to undergraduate and graduate students in March and students have four weeks to complete the survey. Programs are provided a summary of this survey and the Graduate Student Exit Survey during the annual graduate student assessment report process as part of the Higher Learning Commission requirement.
- The survey students took in 2018 was lengthy, taking an average of 62 minutes and 14 seconds, and had a low number of responses Graduate School and Graduate Student Government reviewed questions and reduced the number of questions from 128 to 67.

**ACTION ITEM:** Programs are being asked to review the questions and provide feedback during the January 28 meeting.

**Announcement**

- The Graduate Research Colloquium will be held March 30 and the Graduate Student Government will announce the event.

**Adjourned 5:00 pm**