Graduate Faculty Council Minutes
January 28, 2020

Members Present: Kelly Steelman (App Cog Sci), Will Cantrell (Atmo Sci), Tarun Dam, (BMB), Gordon Paterson (Bio Sci), Ashutosh Tiwari (Chem), Tim Eisele (Chem Eng), Audrey Meyer (CFSRES), Thomas Oommen (Comp Sci & Eng/GMES), Laura Brown, (Data Sci), Mike Roggemann (Ele Comp Eng Donald Peck (HI/Mechatronics), Ramon Fonkoue (HU), Eugene Levin (Int Geo Tech), Steve Elmer (KIP), Qiuying Sha (Math), Mari Buche (MBA), Leonard Bohmann (MS of Eng), Craig Friedrich (MEEM), Kari Henquinet (PCorps), Yoke Khin Yap (Physics), Chelsea Schelly (Soc Sci)

Members Absent: Joel Turoniemi (Acct), Gary Campbell (App Nat Res), Feng Zhao (Biomed), Jean Mayo (Comp Sci), Stephen Hackney (MSE)

Guests Present: Pushpa Murthy (Grad Sch), Jacque Smith (Grad Sch), Mary Stevens (Grad Sch), Nancy Byers Sprague (Grad Sch), Deb Charlesworth, (Grad Sch), Erin Matas (Library), Apurva Baruah (GSG)

Approval of January 14, 2020 minutes
The January 14, 2020 were approved with the correction of “GES to GRE”.

Business before the University Senate (V. Webster)
Proposal 15-20: Tams for Graduating PhDs at Commencement. Senate approval was not necessary and the proposal was withdrawn by the Senate.

Proposal to Change MS Degree Title from “Industrial Archaeology” to “Industrial Heritage and Archaeology”. The proposal will need state approval. Students currently in the program will have an option to choose the name of the degree on their diploma. Dean Murthy suggested the department let the current students know about the proposal and to ask if they have any concerns.

Graduate School Updates
Admissions (J. Smith)
The number of applications and accepted students are higher than this time last year. Programs have accepted 109 students during the past week and there are 430 applications waiting decision. The spring 2020 semester was the biggest spring term with 124 first-time Masters and PhD enrolled students compared to 123 first-time students in 2014. The number of returning students is still a concern.

As a reminder, the admissions dashboard is available to departments to track application status. The data compares today to the date as of last year and users can filter specific groupings as needed. This report is in WebFocus, go to Portals, and then GR Admissions Dashboard.
Current graduate student survey (P. Murthy)
It was suggested to clarify questions number 8 and 9 by removing “degree program” and define the meaning of the Research Office in question number 55.

Ensuring Independence of Opinions in Evaluation of Graduate Students (W. Cantrell)
Discussion ensued and it was decided to include signatures of the Graduate Program Director and Committee members on the form. Please forward questions and/or additional feedback to Will Cantrell.

Doctoral Candidacy Celebration, 4-6 pm, Wednesday, February 26 (P. Murthy)
The celebration will be held on February 26 and the Graduate School will submit an announcement in Tech Today.

Graduate Faculty Status Appeal Committee (GFSAC) (P. Murthy)
The voted members are:
College of Sciences and Arts: Chelsea Schelly
College of Engineering: John Gierke
College of Forest Resources and Environmental Science: Audrey Mayer

Alternate Members:
College of Computing: Jinshan Tang
College of Business: Manish Srivastava

The Dean will appoint two members to the College of Computing and the College of Business and will announce it at the February 18 meeting.

GRE scores (Graduate Program Directors/P. Murthy)
The Graduate School is requesting departments to report back at the February 18 meeting their experience with the continued use or not using the scores in graduate admissions.

Announcement
The Graduate Student Government will announce the GSG Merit Awards Nominations in Tech Today and awards will be presented at the Graduate Research Colloquium banquet on April 1.

Adjourned 5:10 p.m.