Graduate Faculty Council Minutes
February 18, 2020

Members Present: Samantha Smith (App Cog Sci), Will Cantrell (Atmo Sci), Ebenezer Tumban (Bio Sci), Ashutosh Tiwari (Chem), Veronica Webster (CEE/EPD2), Jean Mayo (Comp Sci), Audrey Meyer (CFSRES), Laura Brown, (Data Sci), Mike Roggemann (Ele Comp Eng), Eugene Levin (Int Geo Tech), Steve Elmer (KIP), Mari Buche (MBA), Craig Friedrich (MEEM), Yoke Khin Yap (Physics), Tim Scarlette (Soc Sci)

Members Absent: Tarun Dam, (BMB), Feng Zhao (Biomed), Becky Ong (Chem Eng), Thomas Oommen (Comp Sci & Eng/GMES), Donald Peck (HI/Mechatronics), Ramon Fonkoue (HU), Qiuying Sha (Math), Stephen Hackney (MSE), Leonard Bohmann (MS of Eng), Kari Henquinet (PCorps)

Guests Present: Pushpa Murthy (Grad Sch), Jacque Smith (Grad Sch), Mary Stevens (Grad Sch), Deb Charlesworth, (Grad Sch), Erin Matas (Library), Apurah Baruah (GSG), Nathan Ford (GSG)

Approval of February 18, 2020 minutes
The February 18, 2020 minutes were approved with Apurva’s name correction.

Business before the University Senate (V. Webster)
Proposal to Change MS Degree Title from “Industrial Archaeology” to “Industrial Heritage and Archaeology”. The proposal is approved.

New Business
Elimination of Shelved Programs
Master’s of Engineering: Civil Engineering (EGR3) (7-15 & 18-19) and Master’s of Engineering: Environmental Engineering (EGR4) (8-15 & 20-19). The proposal is approved with no discussion.

Graduate School Updates
Admissions (J. Smith)
The number of applications is higher than this time last year, however, the number of accepted students is down. The majority of incomplete applications are due to international students not submitting their proof of funding and the Graduate School is working with applicants to compete their files. There were also several domestic students with incomplete applications and the Graduate School communicated with the students to complete their files. We have received the most accelerated Master’s applications.

Please contact the Graduate School if departments need assistance.

Graduate Faculty Status Appeal Committee (GFSAC) (P. Murthy)
Laura Brown from the College of Computing and Mari Buch College of Business will serve on the committee.

Ensuring Independent Assessments of Graduate Students Management Plan Guidelines (W. Cantrell)
The Management Plan template has been updated to include instructions who should sign the form.
Update on the PhD Candidacy Celebration (P. Murthy)

All PhD candidates, advisors, deans and department chairs have been invited. Departments are encouraged to remind the students and advisors to attend. The Graduate School will forward the list of invited students and advisors to GFC.

GRE scores (Graduate Program Directors)

- Chemistry uses the GRE score if it is provided but they are looking to move away from using it.
- College of Business does not rely on the GRE score.
- Biological Sciences does not require the GRE score.
- Social Sciences is discussing the use of GRE score and are leaning on not using the score.
- Cognitive and Learning Sciences does not require the GRE score.
- College of Business does not rely on the GRE score.
- Biological Sciences does not require the GRE score.
- Social Sciences is discussing the use of GRE score and are leaning on not using the score.
- Cognitive and Learning Sciences does not require the score for accelerated and coursework Master’s students. They do not have a required minimum score for thesis and PhD students because applicants are accepted by the advisor rather than a committee. Scores are still required for research programs. Scores are not listed for all students and are within the application packet. Some faculty feel the score is useful for assessment.
- Civil and Environmental Engineering and Environmental Engineering (EPD2) do require the GRE score for non MTU. Some faculty feel the score is useful for assessment.
- Electrical and Computer Engineering has not used the GRE score for Master’s students over the past two years and does require it for PhD applications.
- Mechanical Engineering-Engineering Mechanics uses the GRE score but is not as the only deciding factor.
- Atmospheric Sciences uses the GRE score.
- Computer Science uses the GRE score but not for domestic applicants.
- Data Science uses the GRE score.
- Forestry uses the GRE score but does not require it.
- Integrated Geospatial Technology does not use the GRE score.
- Physics uses the GRE score but not for domestic applicants.

Announcement

Judges needed for the Graduate Research Colloquium (N. Ford)

The Graduate Research Colloquium is March 31 and the banquet is April 1. Please encourage your students to participate. Judges are needed at the oral presentations and poster session March 31 and April 1. Judges are invited to attend the banquet on April 1.

The Merit Awards will be presented at the Awards Banquet and the deadline to nominate is Friday, February 21.

Award categories:

- Exceptional Staff Member
- Exceptional Graduate Mentor
- Exceptional Student Leader
- Exceptional Student Scholars