

Special Meeting of the Graduate Faculty

September 25, 2007

A special meeting of the Graduate Faculty was convened at 3:30 PM on September 25, 2007 in St. Pat's Ballroom B for purpose of considering proposed changes to the current graduate faculty by-laws. The proposed changes reflect the new organizational structure. This primarily involves deleting references to schools and colleges and reassigns processes formerly handled by the deans to the Vice Provost for Graduate Studies. With extremely low attendance, two options were explored: 1) go ahead and take an official vote of those present or 2) discuss the changes, then conduct an email ballot with 1 week's response time allowed.

Dick DuBroff then addressed the major changes in the document:

There was some discussion about the advisability of inserting *lecturers* in **Section III.D.2**. Susan Murray expressed concern since many lecturers have not earned graduate degrees. Kelvin Erickson pointed out that nominees would still be required to meet all the criteria for graduate faculty membership. Dick DuBroff explained that the changes were intended to make this section consistent with **Section III.D.1**. Bill Daughton suggested adding *teaching* to that section, as well, in order to reflect the new teaching professorships that have been established. It was further stated that in order to avoid the need for an immediate amendment to the by-laws in January 2008, *University of Missouri-Rolla* be changed to something more generic.

Section IV.D. contains a statement that the names of members who no longer meet the requirements for membership will be submitted to graduate faculty with the recommendation that their membership no be renewed provided the member in question does not withdraw their application before the membership election ballot is distributed. DuBroff explained that his practice has been to give such faculty the opportunity to withdraw their application in order to avoid embarrassment.

The list of degree programs in **Section VI.B.** was changed to table format for ease of use and was updated to include programs in addition to departments. The names of gradate council representatives will be added later.

In **Section VI.B.3**, references to schools were deleted and wording was changed to provide representation for the various categories of departments. If there is a question of which classification applies to a specific program, the decision will be made by the department chair. The same type of representation will be used for other committees appointed by the chair of the graduate faculty.

Bill Daughton made a motion to conduct the vote to approve the proposed by-laws by mail ballot allowing one week's response time. The motion was seconded by Susan Murray and was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 PM.