

Graduate Faculty Meeting Dec.6, 2004

The graduate faculty meeting was held at 3:30 pm in Room 104 of the mechanical engineering building. The following changes to the list of graduate degree recipients were made at the request of the School of Materials, Energy, and Earth Resources (SoMEER):

Remove Jacob Gross from the Ceramic Engineering list; remove Matthew Schlegel from the Geological Engineering list; and add Joe Guggenberger to the Master of Science in Geological Engineering list. The list with these modifications was unanimously approved.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend an increase in Stipend X from \$30,600 to \$31,200. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to allow graduate form I to be replaced with a CAPS report for all master of engineering programs in the School of Materials, Energy, and Earth Resources. The motion was approved unanimously and, as a result, the following sentence will be added to the graduate catalog description of master degrees:

“The School of Materials, Energy and Earth Resources uses electronic degree audits to record and track graduate credit counted toward the Master of Engineering degree programs; and Form I is not required for these non-thesis programs of study.”

A motion was made to remove the out of department restriction on 200 level courses in a masters degree program. The motion was seconded. Part of the purpose for this request was that several separate departments in SoMEER were combined into a single department with separate degree programs as a result of restructuring the school.

Consequently several previously separate departments became degree programs within a single department. This motion to remove these restrictions on 200 level courses was passed unanimously. It should be noted, however, that passage of this motion does not require any department to implement these more liberal rules on the use of 200 level courses in any graduate degree program. It only gives the departments the ability to make this change if they wish to do so.

A related motion was to remove all references to out of department committee members for master's degree thesis option students. The motion was seconded and approved. The appropriate changes will be made on graduate form I and in the graduate catalog. The motion was approved unanimously.

Two additional topics were brought to the attention of the graduate faculty for discussion. One of the items concerned the impact of residency requirements for on-line graduate programs. Dean Krishnamurthy agreed to chair a committee to look at several concerns expressed by individual graduate faculty members. The intention is to have a specific recommendation ready to present at a special graduate faculty meeting to be held early next semester.

The second discussion item involved the designation of a “key reader” in addition to the advisor, for theses and dissertations. The purpose of the “key reader” would be to determine whether the thesis or dissertation is in a form acceptable to be sent to the rest of the student's advisory committee. Graduate faculty members expressed some

reservations, particularly in the case of MS students where there are usually only three members on the student's advisory committee. Dean Van Aken agreed to chair a committee to look into these concerns and, possibly present a specific motion regarding designation of a key reader at a future graduate faculty meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard E. DuBroff
Chair of the Graduate Faculty.