

Research Council Minutes
Thursday, December 16, 2010
2:00 - 3:00 pm
Bradley Conference Room
Wilson Hall

McCoy, Tom	X	Johnson, Cheryl	X	Shaw, Joe	X
Black, Laura	X	Kuntz, Sandy	call-in	Whitlock, Cathy	X
Cloninger, Mary	X	Gee, Regina	X		
Douglas, Trevor	X	Jutila, Mark	out	Fedock, Joseph	X
Erickson, Joanne	out	Marley, Robert	X	Yarnell, Allen	call-in
Hays, Rick	call-in	Pascual, David	X	Fox, Carl	X

VISITORS: Brian Rossmann, Tracy Ellig, Justin Davis

I. Call to Order

- Meeting was called to order by Dr. McCoy at 2:02 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes of November 23, 2010 meeting

III. Information/Announcements

- Dr. McCoy, as discussed at last meeting, reminded members of next meeting on January 20, 2011, and starting in February, we will attempt to hold one-hour meetings every first and third Thursday of each month. Schedule and meeting locations to be ready at next meeting.

IV. Topics for Discussion

➤ **Enhancing Graduate Education**

- i. Dr. McCoy and Dr. Fedock both confirmed that all RC recommendations regarding enhancing graduate education at MSU will be forwarded to Deans' Council for additional consideration.

a) Discuss potential approaches

- i. Dr. Fox: Based on the recent BOR's policy-setting decision on graduate education that both UofMT-Missoula and MSU-Bozeman now have the flexibility to establish tuition rates for all non resident graduate students who are employed as GTAs/GRAs, the Division of Graduate Education is recommending that MSU set tuition at the *resident rate* for non-resident, full-time graduate students employed as GTA or a GRA at resident student rates.
 - ✓ MSU continues to use current criteria for defining a GTA and a GRA
 - ✓ The graduate student must be enrolled in a minimum of 6 credit hours
 - ✓ The graduate student must be employed for 20 hours per week

- ✓ Allow combination GTA/GRA positions
 - ✓ Recruitment incentive that by setting these criteria, the graduate students will be able to meet Montana residency requirements
- ii. Considerations
- ✓ Best practice/policy used in other institutions
 - ✓ International students
 - ✓ Graduate students who have not gone through steps to establish Montana residency
 - ✓ Include boilerplate language on appointment forms to make graduate students hired as GTAs/GRAs aware of possibility of ineligibility, if student does not take steps to establish residency
 - ✓ Ensure GTAs/GRAs aware of the necessary steps required to establish Montana residency
 - ✓ Concern for non-science/engineering disciplines (ex. Math, Art, English, Filmmaking, social sciences) may be fiscally concerned about a change from non-resident rates to resident rates for their graduate students employed as GTAs; concern on how to balance support for new GTAs and how to continue support for current GTAs; programmatic reasons may not be able to keep GTAs employed for full time needed by the student to complete graduate degree
 - ✓ All departments/programs will still have flexibility to manage hire their graduate students relative to employment hours and credit hours
 - ✓ MSU policy on defining GTAs/GRAs must include clear language regarding the “twenty hours employment”

b) Agree on Recommendations to forward to Deans’ Council

- i) Dr. Fox will craft official RC recommendation and attend the next Deans’ Council which is set for Tuesday, January 11.
- ii) Dr. Fedock confirmed that implementation is next step after Deans’ Council considers/approves RC recommendation with effective date for 2011 Fall semester and applicable for July 1 recruitment purposes.

c) Additional BOR goals

- i) Dr. Fox: the BOR has suggested that they would like to see MSU and UMT write a five-year plan regarding doctoral programs and in particular collaborative doctoral programs.
- ii) Dr. Fedock: both President Cruzado and President Engstrom have discussed ways to enhance more institutional collaborations and provide a “united front” to allow the universities be seen in a positive light with regard to the upcoming legislative session and funding environment; a work in progress as to the five year projection on doctoral programs.

d) Additional Concerns/discussions

- i) MSU should look at connection between research dollars and graduate student success rate

- ii) Faculty evaluations – weighted with consideration for advising graduate students and teaching at graduate level
- iii) Incentivize/penalize departments receiving research dollars based on graduate student “completion rates”
- iv) Concern for small vs. large departments
- v) Need for program reviews on the graduate and undergraduate programs – not as decoupled as perceived
- vi) More comprehensive budgeting approach for academic programs may allow more “upfront” money to help attract top-notch graduate students
- vii) Aware that some programs have two-year graduate programs
- viii) Faculty salaries a hinderance to attract high quality faculty, then to attract graduate students

Dr. McCoy will present an RC recommendation at the next Deans’ Council that Research Council feels that some of the increased tuition dollars needs to be allocated to a incentive program to enhance graduate education and RC will be making a recommendations on how those incentives will be based.

MEETING ADJOURNED @ 3:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 20, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. (Bradley Conference Room)