Members Present:  Bob Barnett, David Gordon, Vahid Lotfi, D. J. Trela and Chris Waters

Guests:  Brad Maki, Director of Graduate Admissions
         Deb White, Director of the Office of Extended Learning

Gerard called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Graduate Programs Study ► Brad distributed a handout on the results of the 2010 Graduate Student Survey. Every two years Graduate Programs sends a survey to their students. In previous years the survey was mailed to students, this was the first year it was web-based. The forty-seven question survey was sent to all active graduate students admitted to a degree program. There was a 30% response rate, with 425 out of 1,416 responding. This was a lower response rate compared to the previous survey in 2008 and 2006 surveys of 40% and 32%, respectively.

Brad explained that the purpose of the survey is to assess various aspects of graduate education. Areas covered in the survey were course scheduling, academic experience, campus services, decision to attend UM-Flint and recruitment and admissions experiences. Brad used the handout to point out that 80% of those responding were active and currently registered. While 76% of graduate students are part-time, 61% of those who responded were also part time. Eighty-nine percent (89%) have completed graduate courses. Of those responding, 66% were female which was roughly the same percentage of graduate students. The age for the responders showed that 23% were 25 or younger, 26% were 26-30 years of age, 24% were 31-40 years of age and 9% were 51 or older. The survey results indicated that 35% have children under the age of 18 at home and 90% are U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Results showed that 49% were married or partnered, 42% were never married, 8% were divorced, and 1% ranked “other”.

Brad thought the responses they received this year were more honest than those received by mail. He explained that Graduate Programs can ask unit-specific questions and invited deans to suggest any questions that they would like included in the next survey. Any suggestions for the next survey should be sent to Brad by the middle of January.

Distance Education Licensure ► Deb provided an overview regarding the new Distance Education licensure and shared three handouts: “Distance Education Decision Points: How Can UM Proceed and Prioritize?”; “Distance Education and State Regulation – Fees Summary”; and “States From Which UM-Flint Students are Enrolled Via Distance Education.”

Deb explained that the effective date for states to comply with the requirement was July 1, 2011, but that the U.S. Department of Education has decided not to enforce these regulations until July 1, 2014. As described in “Distance Education Decision Points: How Can UM Proceed and Prioritize?”, “Federal regulations, effective July 1, 2011, require institutions offering distance education programs in other
states to meet whatever requirements those states may impose for such programs to be ‘legally authorized’ to operate. Institutions must be able to demonstrate compliance with this new regulation to be eligible to participate in federal financial aid programs. U.S. Department of Education has decided not to enforce these regulations until July 1, 2014. . . .”

Discussion ensued regarding what actions constitute a connection to another state – it could be as small as an email or letter to one person. If an ad is sent to a particular state, we must have a license there. Each state charge a fee based on what their requirements are in distance education. These fees and requirements for state approval are listed in the Distance Education and State Regulation – Fees Summary handout.

According to Deb, each state should have a Compliant Department, but Michigan does not have one. It was thought that our plan should be to look at states where we get funds and seek licensure where there is a minimum number of students. We should compare the fees per state and we may want to look program-by-program as to what the costs are, as well as create a list of states which we would not want to be involved with because of their fees. This is not a one-time fee and the fee can change from year to year. When it was asked what Ann Arbor had decided to do, Deb responded by saying they had not given much thought to it. Gerard suggested that Deb make a list of where our out-of-state students are and what those fees are. This will help us to decide what to do in the future. We may want to have reciprocal agreements from various states.

Minutes from August 25 Meeting ► Deans were asked to send any corrections to the Minutes to Ginny by Monday.

Draft Study Abroad Policy ► Vahid provided an updated draft of the IGS Study Abroad Policy. This policy has not yet been shared with the IGS faculty. Vahid explained that there was a $2,000 stipend for new course development, half was to be paid when the course was planned, and half at the point when it appears in the course schedule. The second part of the faculty compensation would be $6,500 for a three-credit course. If the department would like to increase the amount, that can be approved. SOM is planning to set their cap at $8,000. The subject of a second team leader was discussed. There was a concern about how many people on the trip were able to speak the language. Vahid said that the University had been doing study abroad for 15 years and that they have an excellent evacuation plan. Bob appreciated the clarity of the proposal. It was decided that this proposal was accepted by all present and that it is ready to be sent to the International and Global Studies faculty.

K-12 Pre-College Office ► Gerard said he and Jonathan Jarosz were writing the position description. Gerard will write a K-12 bullet and bring it back to the next meeting.

6. Matters Arising ► Promotion and Tenure was briefly discussed. Gerard stated that if there were to be a change in the number of years for tenure, it would be for the University of Michigan-Flint campus as a unit. Gerard asked each Dean to send an electronic copy of their school’s Promotion and Tenure Guidelines to Ginny and she will send them to the Deans prior to the next Council of Deans meeting.

The subject of having Jeff Frumkin come to campus regarding tenure was mentioned; but no date was determined.

Gerard said he would invite Tendaji Ganges to a future Council of Deans meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 22, at 3:00 in the Shiawassee Room.