Department of Scientific Computing Faculty Meeting – 1/25/16

In attendance: Gordon Erlebacher, Dennis Slice, Xiaoqiang Wang, Sachin Sanhbag, Bryan Quaife, Tomek Plewa, Chen Huang, Ming Ye & Max Gunzburger.

There is a quorum so Gordon started the meeting

1. Status of 1xxx course

   This is on course to be taught for the Fall 2016, pending final approvals

2. PIE program proposal
   a. Nathan Crock is a PIE Associate that wrote a proposal to improve TA training and evaluation.
      i. Workshop to be given for our TA's with Nathan and professor from Economics who has numerous teaching awards.
   b. Proposal is that to be evaluated all TAs will give a five-minute presentation (which will be videotaped).
      i. There will be a self-evaluation and evaluation conducted by those in attendance at the presentation.
   c. This has been discussed with graduate committee
   d. Gordon opened this up for discussion
      i. Tomek: Mentioned that we should offer the TA training class in the fall semester.
      ii. Sachin: Mentioned that the research seminar is used to present the faculty research to students so they can make a decision on who their advisor might be.
      iii. Dennis: Suggested renaming research seminar to incorporate TA training in research seminar.
      iv. Max: Mentioned that the graduate committee should create a proposal to bring to the faculty for a vote.
      v. Voted that as part of the research seminar there will be a TA training component. 9-0
3. Upcoming meeting with Dean concerning number of graduate students
   a. Dean has allocated 42 graduate students funded for our department
   b. Gordon feels that the number should be around 36 (you can go over this amount)
   c. How do we deal with this? Include students in research grants
   d. If we are unable to meet these numbers, then the Dean may decide to do away with our department.
4. Undergraduate enrollment
   a. Gordon met with exploratory major advisors
   b. Gordon will also be meeting with advisors that work with Sophomores who are looking to change majors.
   c. Discussion of how we ran reports to come up with undergraduate students to target.
5. Tracking our alumni
   a. As of last week we have all the names of our graduates
   b. Gordon sent an email asking for updated information and their vitaes

6. Computation Expo (April 8th)
    a. This is the week after the PIC EXPO
    b. We will email students to invite them
    c. Tomek: Asked what the times are going to be because he has the research seminar on that day.
    d. Gordon: Suggested cancelling research seminar so that students can participate in Expo
    e. Gordon: Wants various students to a three-minute video presentation of their research
    f. Tomek: Asked if we can have the video people can come to the Expo to video people here
    g. Dennis: Suggested contacting WCTV
7. Special Topics course
    a. We need to get some of these on the books with Course Numbers
    b. Gordon will send the .xls to the faculty
    c. Mark will email a list of what to do
8. ACSI and ACSII are both being given in the fall
    a. Plewa: Not everyone can teach those courses so someone might have to teach it twice
9. Discuss timeline for Prelims
    a. The consequences of having ACSI & ACSII in the fall is that prelims can be given earlier.
    b. Max: Suggested we need to begin enforcing the rule of doing prospectus one year after orals
10. Professional Science Masters
    a. No one has a problem
11. Vote on prelim grading
    a. Emails were sent around concerning this topic last week
    b. Either 75% on 7 questions, or 60% average
    c. After discussion, it was unsure if you want a second criteria so this will be revisited
12. Student support on grants
    a. Department cannot force the faculty to submit grants with graduate students instead of postdocs.
    b. Gordon: As many students as can be funded should be instead of postdocs
    c. Plewa: There are times when grant committees will not accept proposal where graduate students are used over postdocs.
    d. Max: This is not an administrative versus scientists thing. If we do not meet the dean's measures, then we will be gone. This is coming from the Provost's Office.
    e. Gordon: Student can also apply for fellowships, maybe we have a grant writing course.
    f. Plewa: Even if you have postdocs on grants then the department is still getting overhead money. Not all of my proposals include postdocs, it depends on the situation.
    g. Max: This is not an academic freedom issue; the grant is given to the university not the individual. The number of students funded has gone down over the past few years.

    After several minutes of discussion Gordon said that while he cannot force faculty to include graduate students in their proposals, it is very much encouraged.

Gordon, closed the meeting.