Present: Balasubramaniam, Frid, Jain, Mukherjee, Portis, Safferman, Worden, Udpa, Voice
Guest: Associate Dean Koochesfahani

1. Minutes: 2/17/2010 meeting minutes were approved.

2. Dean’s comments: recommendations concerning promotion and tenure issues were provided by the Rating Committee. This will be an agenda item at the next ECAC meeting.

3. Associate Dean Koochesfahani, Graduate Student Research & Teaching Education Initiative
   • Reviewed original discussions concerning the benefits for all Ph.D. students to have a teaching experience and learn the logistics associated with securing and conducting research projects.
   • Discussed the length of a teaching experience. For semester long experiences, the Graduate Employees Union needs to be involved.
   • Concerns regarding requiring a teaching experience were raised.
     • Most Ph.D. graduates do not enter academic careers. However, the counter argument is that all professionals with a Ph.D. need to have good communication skills.
     • Students funded with a research assistantship may be distracted if they also have a teaching requirement.
     • General college level courses may not be specific enough for the needs of each department.
   • Existing opportunities were discussed.
     • Three College departments have research and/or teaching related classes.
     • A University teaching certificate is available. Difficulties include the level of commitment and the lack of opportunity to fulfill the teaching requirements in some departments.
     • Programs at several other institutions were described.
   • The relation of the proposed teaching experience to the decrease in funds for teaching assistants was discussed.
     • Some departments are using funds for teaching assistants instead of filling faculty positions.
     • Graduate fellowships are a priority in the upcoming capital campaign.
   • Suggestions
     • Provide separate experiences for teaching and research.
     • Convene a work group consisting of faculty members from each department to study this issue.
     • Initiate a seminar series in the evening.
     • Examine how the new NSF requirements will lead to the accomplishment of some of the desired outcomes of a general course on research.
     • Conduct a study to examine programs offered by Big 10 Universities.
     • Examine the approach by the College of Natural Science.