

**Graduate Affairs Committee
Department of Mathematics
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

Wednesday, September 9, 2009 - Minutes

Committee members present: Ilya Kapovich (*Chair*), Bruce Berndt, Rick Gorvett, Will Green, Eugene Lerman, Johann Thiel, Jang-Mei Wu, Randy McCarthy (*ex of*), Robert Muncaster (*guest*)

Committee members absent: None

Meeting start: 12:01 pm Meeting end: 12:50 pm Location: 331 Altgeld Hall

Minutes from the last Graduate Affairs Committee (GAC) meeting (held on Sept. 2, 2009) were reviewed and approved.

The following items were discussed:

- 1) Summer Support Options for International Graduate Students: McCarthy described the situation and options regarding summer funding and support for the Math Dept.'s international graduate students. The NSF MCTP program provides summer grad support, but only for U.S. citizens. Last year, the EC provided some summer funds that were ultimately used for international students; McCarthy would like to request additional funds from the EC for summer 2010.

Resolution passed: In support of McCarthy's request to the EC for international student summer support in 2010.

Muncaster and McCarthy will try to coordinate summer TA positions and summer funding, to avoid duplications of support.

- 2) Requirements Regarding PhD Comprehensive Exams and Courses: McCarthy presented the current rules for PhD students regarding comprehensive exams and / or courses (including grade requirements on comp-oriented courses). The GAC discussed the options in the event a student achieves a below-threshold grade on a comp course (e.g., retaking the course, taking the comp exam). Discussion included the possibility that a finite number of comp course re-takes be allowed.

The next GAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 23, 2009, at 12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Gorvett, GAC