

**Minutes/Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Executive Committee Meeting  
February 9, 2007**

Members present: Lindsey Williams, Shona Kelley Wray, Da-Ming Zhu, Ron MacQuarrie (chair), Connie Mahone (Adm. Support).

Excused Absences: Lynda Payne, Simon Friedman, Joe Singer, Michael Ferrari, Vijay Kumar, Shannon Jackson

- I. Meeting called to order with minutes of the January 26, 2007 approved.
- II. **Announcements**
  - Annual Student Assessment will be mailed the last week of February.
  - Dr. MacQuarrie was a presenter at the FaCET meeting and discussed concerns that faculty members had regarding the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. program and efforts to enhance the program.
- III. **Language requirement for international applicants**

Requirements for international students established by the Graduate Council are that students originally from a country where English is not the native language must take the TOEFL with exceptions granted if the student has received a degree from an English speaking institution. The Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Executive Committee has approved a different requirement for applicants when English is not the native language must take the TOEFL, even if they have received a degree from an English speaking institution. The two requirements are confusing to faculty and may deter prospective applicants. Members present requested that the item be placed on next month's agenda for further discussion and vote.
- IV. **Approval of dissertation by Coordinating discipline and Co-discipline**

Members discussed the possibility of a student not passing their defense due to the vote of one faculty member. Further discussion ensued that even though this is a hypothetical situation, this resulting vote could be lessened before a student reaches the defense phase. The goal of the student's committee should be to guarantee the student's success and make suggestions for corrective action before the student reaches the defense phase.
- V. **Ethics Courses (continued)**

Dr. MacQuarrie discussed the original intent of the Ethics course discussion. In conducting accreditation evaluations, external reviewers have requested evidence of how program goals are met. Since there seemed to be no consensus on having a single course or group of courses meet the requirement, the question posed to the group was whether ethics education should be approached program-wide or by individual disciplines. The consensus of the group was to ask disciplines the approach they take in addressing ethics education.
- VI. **Conditions under which a student may reconstitute a Supervisory Committee**

Dr. MacQuarrie explained the process used to reconstitute the Supervisory Committee. There was brief discussion but the members requested further discussion by the group at the next meeting.
- VII. **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.