

Minutes/Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Executive Committee Meeting
April 10, 2009
2:00 pm

Members present: Lisa Terre, Da-Ming Zhu, Deep Medhi, Wai-Yim Ching, Shona Kelly Wray, John Laity, Jeff Gorski, Omiunota Ukpokodu, Joseph Parisi, Dean Ronald MacQuarrie (Chair), Connie Mahone (administrative support)

Excused Absences: Lisa Terre, Joe Singer, Shona Kelly Wray, Donna Davis, Alex Holsinger,

I. Meeting called to order with minutes of the March 13, 2009 meeting approved.

II. Announcements

- IDSC selected Dr. Deep Medhi as Outstanding Faculty and Dr. Marilyn Yoder as Outstanding Mentor at annual Community of Scholars event.
- Annual evaluations are scheduled to be sent out the week of April 10th.
- Fellowship Information distributed and announcement of Awards Convocation on April 29, 2009.
- Update on balloting process.

III. Review of Executive Subcommittee Representation

Dr. Fred Lee of the Economics Department had previously written to Dr. MacQuarrie to express his concern regarding the Executive Committee's composition. From his interpretation, the membership on the committee does not reflect the distribution of students in separate disciplines. For example, some disciplines are over represented as measured by the number of members on the committee relative to the size of their doctoral student body, whereas other disciplines with large doctoral student bodies, are not represented at all. Members expressed the opinion that the composition of the committee is established by the by-laws and that any changes would need to be voted on by all doctoral faculty at UMKC. The opinion was expressed that the committee is similar to the US Senate in which some disciplines may have a low ratio of students to representatives and others have a high ratio. It was also stated that the members take a broad perspective and are dedicated to helping the program as a whole and are not parochial in making decisions. Since the composition depends on faculty participation and not on student participation, the committee requested that a statement be included in the minutes to address Dr. Lee's concerns.

- The consensus of the committee is that the membership should not be based on student numbers.
- The Committee is meant to be a governing body.
- Faculty in the various units should be encouraged to make it a priority to send faculty forth who are willing to participate.

IV. Plans of Study

Dr. Medhi requested that SGS investigate revised methods of provided plans of study to committee members (via Blackboard or other methods to help eliminate the amount of paper currently used).

V. There will be no meeting in May due to conflict with scheduled Commencement activities.

VI. The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.