

**Minutes/Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Executive Committee Meeting
April 13, 2007**

Members present: Joe Singer, Susan Adler, Shona Kelly Wray, Michael Plamann, Lindsey Williams, Michael Ferrari, Shannon Jackson, Tom Stroik, Ron MacQuarrie (chair), Connie Mahone (Adm. Support).

Excused Absences: Da-Ming Zhu, Donna Davis

- I. Meeting called to order with minutes of the March 9, 2007 meeting approved with name corrections.

- II. **Announcements**
 - Reminder of Community of Scholars event Friday, April 13, 2007.
 - Cancellation of revised GRE General test.
 - Listing of academic year graduates (45).

- III. **Approval of dissertation by Coordinating and Co-discipline**

Continued discussion regarding the possibility of a student not passing their defense due to the vote of one faculty member. Revisions of the preliminary evaluation form should provide necessary feedback to the student before moving on to the final defense. The goal of the committee should be to guarantee the student's success and make appropriate suggestions for any corrective action before reaching the final defense. However, the committee would like to explore the possibility that if a consensus is not reached then an appeal for review could be made to an external committee. The group requested that Dr. MacQuarrie draft a statement of protocol that could be used if the appointment of an external committee became necessary.

- IV. **Reconstitution of student supervisory committees**

The current process used to request a supervisory committee change was discussed. Included in the discussion topics were whether or not there were any restrictions to making changes. Some members expressed that students should be allowed to change committee members as needed while others felt that there needed to be time restrictions placed on when committee changes could be made. There may be a need at some point to require a student to provide written justification for the request. The committee could reach no consensus but requested to review more information before any decisions were made.

- V. **Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.**