

Minutes/Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Executive Committee Meeting

September 11, 2009

Members present: Deep Medhi, Wai-Yim Ching, Charles Wurrey, Alex Holsinger, Lisa Terre, Deborah Smith, Joseph Parisi, John Herron, Omiunota Ukpokodu, Joe Singer, Rafia Rasu, Dean Ronald MacQuarrie (Chair), Connie Mahone (administrative support)

Excused Absences: Virginia Blanton, John Laity

- I. Meeting called to order with minutes of the June 12, 2009 meeting approved.
- II. **Introduction of members** - Introduction of committee members and discussion of regulations, policies and procedures of Committee operation. Dean MacQuarrie advised that there is a remaining vacant position requiring appointment by the Dean of Biological Sciences.
- III. **Announcements**
 - Enrollment figures for Fall 2009 (62 newly admitted/total of currently enrolled 399)
 - Graduation figures (24 grads for academic year)
 - Annual evaluation follow-up – 78 received out of 359 sent
 - Interdisciplinary Doctoral Student Council's annual Fall picnic scheduled for September 18th at Loose Park
 - Accreditation Review scheduled on campus during the week of October 12-14.
 - Faculty research and travel grants have been suspended
- IV. **Residency Requirement** - Discussion regarding student concerns expressed at fall orientation concerning the program's residency requirement. A reminder that students are required to take 21 hours in 18 months (in semesters deemed appropriate by the supervisory committee) unless a request for a waiver has been approved by the supervisory committee and subsequently the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Executive Committee and Dean of the Graduate School.
- V. **Plan of Study** - Discussion of the Bylaws and role that the Committee plays in the approval process. In discussing plans of study, the question was raised by Dr. Ukpokodu as to the interdisciplinarity of the program. Members suggested that the program provides an administrative structure but could be considered multidisciplinary. For some faculty it seems that the structure of the program allows for interdisciplinarity but doesn't necessarily demand it.
- VI. **Other** – A request from the Committee for the following information and forms to be provided at a future date for review:
 - Annual evaluation form
 - Names and Disciplines of those students who have completed the program
 - Listing of currently enrolled students

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.