Minutes/Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Executive Committee Meeting

April 18, 2012

Members present: Charles Wurrey, Linda Mitchell, James Sturgeon, John Herron, Charles Robinson, Jeff Gorski, John Laity, Yifei Liu (for Rafia Rasu), Dean Denis Medeiros (Chair) Connie Mahone (SGS administrative support)

Excused Absences: Rafia Rasu, Deep Medhi, Wai-Yim Ching, Virginia Blanton, Dianne Smith

I. Meeting called to order at 2:00 p.m., with minutes of the March 9, 2012 meeting approved.

II. Announcements
   • Reminder of the IDSC Community of Scholars and SGS Awards Celebration on April 25th.

III. Petition from Geosciences for consideration of faculty appointment
    Petition submitted from Dr. James Murowchick, Chair of Geosciences, on behalf of Dr. Nathaniel Brunsell, Associate Professor at Kansas University, to grant permission to serve as a member of Oluseun Idowu’s Interdisciplinary Ph.D. supervisory committee. After discussion and review of Dr. Brunsell’s CV, a motion was made to approve the petition by Dr. Robinson and seconded by Dr. Sturgeon with the motion passing unanimously. A letter will be sent to advise Dr. Murowchick of the Committee’s decision.

IV. Comprehensive Examination Procedures
    Dean Medeiros advised that due to ongoing issues with the examination process the committee needed to discuss program expectations for departments and committees. The expectation is that the process is interdisciplinary and collaborative but committee discussion indicated that the process was not standardized and procedures seem to be different in many departments. The document containing discipline-specific exam requirements and process adherence gathered from the catalog was distributed in advance for committee review. The question from the committee was who should govern this process?

    A recommendation to establish procedural guidelines by requesting input from discipline coordinators, departments and the inclusion of students in establishing the process.

V. Other
   • The by-laws call for the election process to take place in early spring but due to an oversight the process was not finalized. Dean Medeiros requested the committee allow the nomination process to take place in early August with completion by early September. The committee agreed to the request.
   • Consensus of committee to hold meetings during summer as needed.

VI. Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.