Minutes/Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Executive Committee Meeting

April 9, 2010

Members present: Lisa Terre, Charles Wurrey, Deborah Smith, John Laity, John Herron, Dean Ronald MacQuarrie (Chair), Connie Mahone (administrative support)

Guests: Christopher Papasian, Travis Solomon

Excused Absences: Omiunota Ukpokodu, Rafia Rasu, Virginia Blanton, Deep Medhi, Simon Friedman, Joe Parisi, Wai-Yim Ching

I. Meeting called to order with minutes of the February 12, 2010 meeting approved.

II. Biomedical Science Proposal

Drs. Christopher Papasian and Travis Solomon from the School of Medicine were present for discussion of the proposed discipline. The Biomedical Science discipline represents a collaborative effort between the Department of Basic Medical Science and the Department of Informatic Medicine and Personalized Health within the School of Medicine. The discipline would offer the following five distinct research tracts within Biomedical Sciences:

- Molecular and Statistical Genetics
- Musculoskeletal Biology
- Inflammation and Immunology
- Neuroscience and vision Research
- Cardiovascular Biology

The committee reviewed and discussed course offerings, progression through the program, and requested additional information before making a final recommendation. The committee requested a timeline for the appointment of faculty being proposed as doctoral faculty and brief biosketches on all faculty proposed as members of the new discipline.

III. Announcements

- Fellowship information distributed for 2010-2011 year with the annual Awards Convocation scheduled for Monday, April 19th in Pierson Hall.
- IDSC’s Community of Scholars event to be held on Friday, April 16th in the University Center with Dr. David Eick honored as IDSC’s Outstanding Faculty recipient.
- Twenty-two students have applied for Spring 2010 semester

IV. Program Evaluation Committee (PEC) Update

The question was posed “what is the charge of this committee?” Members felt that it is important to know where the program currently stands and where it ultimately wants to go. In order to do that, will need to review old outcomes from previous evaluations. What’s good about the program? The consensus of the committee was that if it’s done right then it would continue to be marketable to students. Dean MacQuarrie reiterated Dr. Pemberton’s view that there is flexibility in the proposed design of the program review criteria. The review process will help to provide an assessment of learning outcomes which should equal student success as well as
students grounded in their disciplines. A meeting of those members who volunteered to serve on the PEC committee (Drs. Laity, Smith and Ukpokodu) will be scheduled before the next meeting date.

V. Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.