Minutes/Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Executive Committee Meeting

December 5, 2012

Members present: Joe Singer, William Black, Jim Sturgeon, Jeff Gorski, Jered Carr, Joan Dean, Wai-Ying Ching, Dianne Smith, Dean Denis Medeiros (Chair) Connie Mahone and Colleen Kelly (SGS administrative support)

Excused Absences: John Laity, Rita Barger, Virginia Blanton, Hari Bhat, Joe Parisi, JeJung Lee

I. Meeting called to order at 2:05 p.m., with minutes of the November 9, 2012 meeting approved.

II. Announcements
   • Dean Medeiros announced that SGS was in the process of hiring a consultant to assist with fund raising
   • Dr. Joe Singer submitted his resignation from the committee effective January 1, 2013
   • The next scheduled meeting will be February 2013 since Spring coursework does not begin until the third week of January

III. Social Science Consortium (SSC) Representation
   Dean Medeiros discussed the challenge facing the SSC after faculty representation changes made by the Graduate Council and asked that an exception be made for Dr. Doug Bowles, Coordinator of SSC. Dr. Bowles does not currently hold a tenure track position, but SSC already has approved criteria. Since Dr. Bowles already serves in the capacity of discipline coordinator and faculty representative for many of the students in the discipline, Dean Medeiros asked that he be grandfathered in with a special appointment that would enable him to continue as adjunct doctoral faculty until his term expires. If at that time he meets the five-year departmental criteria he would be allowed to continue in his current status. A vote was taken which was approved with one abstention.

IV. Plan of Study Revisions
   As proposed in the November 9, 2012 meeting, Dean Medeiros and Dr. Lindsey met and reviewed the POS to include an assessment rubric for the proposal. The rubric was designed to address the issue of interdisciplinarity and writing of the preliminary proposal. Dean Medeiros presented the revised POS to the committee. The committee approved the revision and requested that students and discipline coordinators be notified of the revisions which will go into effect in the Fall 2013 semester.

V. Responsible Conduct of Research
   Dean Medeiros advised that the issue as to whether to continue the six courses currently offered needed to be addressed since only six faculty members responded to the question. The committee recommended that the issue be discussed with discipline coordinators.

VI. Communications with Interdisciplinary Ph.D. students
In an effort to provide on-going communications with graduate students, Dean Medeiros requested recommendations for other issues which needed to be addressed with students. The Graduate Studies Office has distributed the newsletter *The SGS Spotlight*, which serves as an information point for all graduate students.

**VII.** The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.