Minutes/Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Executive Committee Meeting

December 9, 2011

Members present: Jim Sturgeon, John Herron, Jeff Gorski, Wai-Yim Ching, Charles Robinson, Virginia Blanton, John Laity, Deborah Smith, Dean Denis Medeiros (Chair), Connie Mahone, Colleen Kelly (administrative support)

Guest: Jeff Thomas (Law School)

Excused Absences: Charles Wurrey, Joe Singer, Rafia Rasu, Deep Medhi

I. Meeting called to order at 2:00 p.m., with minutes of the October 14, 2011 meeting approved with the addition of Drs. Sturgeon and Gorski having been attendance.

II. Announcements
   • Dean Medeiros remarked on fellowship decisions for the 2012 academic year and resulting implications. He advised the committee that discussions are underway to look at changing the status of the Graduate School from a support unit to an academic unit.
   • Handouts of the current GRE tables and scores were distributed with the Dean leading discussion on acceptable scores. Will be seeking input from other graduate Deans and will advise the committee when decisions are made.

III. Proposal for Interdisciplinary Ph.D. program from the School of Law
    Jeff Thomas (Law School) was in attendance and asked for guidance from the committee in developing a proposal for Law School participation in the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. program.

    The following recommendations were offered for consideration before presenting a finalized proposal to the committee:

    • Establish criteria for faculty participation
    • Make a decision as far as how Law School will participate (coordinating or co-discipline or both)
    • Identify faculty in order to know program will be supported
    • Decide which academic areas would serve as co-disciplines and have discussions with those departments to guarantee support
    • Decide what training applicants should have before applying
    • Determine coursework offerings and requirements

    Professor Thomas advised that he anticipates the program starting no earlier than Fall 2013.

IV. Survey Results
    At the November joint meeting of Discipline Coordinators and the Executive Committee a recommendation was made to the Dean to survey Coordinators on the areas of concern raised by the Site Visit Committee. The survey was developed and sent to all Coordinators with results tabulated and distributed to the group for review and discussion. After a lengthy discussion the group requested the Dean prepare a series of
motions to submit to the Committee in order to finalize actions for site visit recommendations.

V. Other
Dr. Gorski advised the committee that his department is preparing a letter to Chancellor Morton in support of additional funding at the graduate level and encouraged other departments to make the same commitment.

Dr. Deborah Smith issued an invitation to FaCET’s annual meeting scheduled for January 6, 2012.

VI. Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.