Minutes/Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Executive Committee Meeting

February 12, 2010

Members present: Lisa Terre, Charles Wurrey, Simon Friedman, Deborah Smith, John Laity, Deborah Smith, Virginia Blanton, Rafia Rasu, Jeff Gorski, Simon Friedman, Alex Holsinger, Deep Mehdi, John Herron, Dean Ronald MacQuarrie (Chair), Connie Mahone (administrative support)

Excused Absences: Omiunota Ukpokodu, Wai-Yim Ching

I. Meeting called to order with minutes of the November 12, 2009 meeting approved.

II. Announcements
   - 7 admits for Spring 2010 semester
   - 12 graduates in Fall 2009 semester
   - Dean MacQuarrie announced the proposed new degree program-Ph.D. in Entrepreneurship (see discussion points below).
   - Dr. Smith announced Sociology faculty had voted to place a moratorium on admission to the program.
   - Dr. Gorski announced Oral Biology was in the process of developing a new NIH T32 training grant for post doc fellowships and graduate education. The proposed grant would work with the Center for Excellence for Mineralized Tissue utilizing multiple schools to address various research problems. He reiterated the information he presented at the last meeting on the growing importance of interdisciplinarity.

III. Discussion regarding proposed Entrepreneurship Ph.D.
Discussion continued on the proposed new Ph.D. in Entrepreneurship and Innovation. As discussed previously, this would be a new stand-alone Ph.D. program that, if approved, would exist in addition to the discipline of the same name in the interdisciplinary Ph.D. program. Some members expressed displeasure that this was approved by the Graduate Council and the Provost’s Office without any input from the Executive Committee. The Interdisciplinary Ph.D. program has been a unique draw for prospective students to the University but members asked if this move would set a precedent for allowing other disciplines to take the same steps which would allow them to leave the program. Some members questioned if this was an effort to avoid the co-discipline selection requirement. Dr. MacQuarrie described the approval process and mentioned that other independent doctoral program exist on the campus. The consensus was to support the program or if there are problems then to make provisions to fix them.

Members requested that a copy of the proposal be sent to them for review but voiced their apprehension by submitting the following statement:

   - The Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Executive Committee expresses concern with the proposed request to create a standalone Entrepreneurship and Innovation Ph.D. program and request that Provost Hackett be invited to the next meeting to provide information (motion by Drs. Gorski and Smith) motion approved.
IV. **Program Evaluation Committee**

Drs. Smith, Laity and Blanton had previously been asked to meet and design the methods to address the upcoming evaluation. The evaluation will present both an opportunity and a challenge and will enable the group to look at where the program currently stands and where it will eventually be as well as needed resources. Dr. Smith advised that the Chair selected to oversee the process won’t be selected until May. In the meantime, the committee can be reviewing and developing methods to gather information utilizing the proposed timeline developed by the planning group. Dr. MacQuarrie suggested that broad representation from the Executive Committee and the Coordinators could perhaps serve as the Steering Committee. As a result of further discussion, senior persons on the committee who are completing their terms agreed to serve as the nominating committee and will meet by March 5th and will present a report at the March meeting.

V. **Other**

Dr. Medhi requested that SGS review information for letters of recommendation to be submitted on-line.

VI. Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.