Minutes/Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Executive Committee Meeting

January 13, 2012

Members present: Jim Sturgeon, Virginia Blanton, Jeff Gorski, Deep Medhi, Charles Robinson, Linda Mitchell, John Laity, Deep Medhi, Joe Singer, Wai-Yim Ching, Rafia Rasu, William Black, Dean Denis Medeiros (Chair), Connie Mahone, Colleen Kelly (administrative support)

Guest: Nathan Lindsay

Excused Absences: Dianne Smith, Charles Wurrey

I. Meeting called to order at 2:00 p.m., with minutes of the December 9, 2011 meeting approved.

II. Announcements
   • Dean Medeiros advised that he is in continuing discussions with Vice Provost Mary Lou Hines-Fritts regarding the Ph.D. admissions process.

III. Assessment
    Dr. Nathan Lindsay, Assistant Vice-Provost for Assessment, provided feedback from the subcommittee (Drs. Black, Laity, and Bergerson) established to recommend new criteria for the 2012 assessment rubric. Last year’s questionnaire assessed only the communication component and a recommendation has been made from the sub-committee to add a section on oral communication for 2012. After additional discussion and recommendations from the Committee, Dr. Lindsay advised that the sub-committee would utilize them in making revisions to be presented to the Executive Committee.

IV. Survey Results
    As a follow-up to the November joint meeting of Coordinators and the Executive Committee Dean Medeiros prepared the following sets of motions to be voted upon by the Committee:

1) To change the names of coordinating and co-discipline to other terms.
   
   Option a: The coordinating discipline and co-discipline names should be changed to primary discipline and secondary discipline, respectively.
   
   Option b: The coordinating discipline and co-discipline names should be changed to primary discipline and co-discipline, respectively.
   
   Option c: The coordinating discipline and co-discipline names should be changed to Discipline and co-discipline respectively.
After discussion Dr. Mitchell asked the Committee to entertain a motion for acceptance of Option B with a second from Dr. Rasu. Motion passed. The change is effective immediately with time allotted for modifications to be made in program information by the Graduate School.

2) Changes to admission procedure to allow coordinating disciplines to make the primary decision.

Option a: All coordinating disciplines shall be given authority to grant provisional admission to graduate students until a suitable co-discipline has been identified.

Option b: All coordinating disciplines shall be given authority, except for the ones that petition the Graduate School, to grant provisional admission to graduate students until a suitable co-discipline has been identified.

Option c: Coordinating disciplines have the authority to admit I.Ph.D. students without the consent of a co-discipline, though this authority does not bind the applicant’s chosen co-discipline to accept a student. Co-disciplines that prefer to retain their vote in an admissions decision may do so and need to alert coordinating disciplines of this preference. In such cases, coordinating and co-disciplines are asked to facilitate a timely admissions process.

No consensus was reached on motion two but the Committee requested that the Graduate School monitor and facilitate communication among coordinators to insure timely review of applications.

V. Other
Committee members requested the Graduate School utilize Blackboard for members to review and approve programs of study.

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