Minutes/Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Executive Committee Meeting
March 8, 2013

Members present: Wai-Yim Ching, Joan Dean, Hari Bhat, Fred Lee, Bonita Butner, Jered Carr, Joe Parisi, Anthony Shiu, Joe Gorski, Rafia Rasu, Rita Barger, Dean Denis Medeiros (Chair) Connie Mahone, Colleen Kelly, Alphia Curry, (SGS administrative support)

Excused Absences: Jejung Lee, John Laity

I. Meeting called to order at 2:05 p.m., with minutes of the February 8, 2013 meeting approved.

II. Announcements
   • SGS planning more programming efforts for graduate students. Thesis/Dissertation formatting workshops currently offered with Plan of Study workshops to be offered later this month.
   • Listing of deadlines requested by Joan Dean at February meeting not completed currently in the process of trying to gather remainder of the information.
   • Current census count for disciplines was distributed. Question from Cindy Pemberton as to whether Primary disciplines should be reviewed?
   • Dean Medeiros provided update on fellowship program. Eight have been awarded so far but Department Chairs and Graduate Officers have expressed concerns due to admission deadlines.
   • Annual evaluations have been completed and sent to currently enrolled students and advisors.
   • Internet TOEFL score – currently passing score is 28. In the coming year will need a score of 26 with student required to complete a 5-10 minute simulated class with grading on a rubric scale completed by faculty, staff and students.
   • Reminder from Dean Medeiros that plans of study are being placed on Blackboard and the importance for members to review and approve in a timely manner.
   • Proposed policy changes regarding graduate student enrollment in 300 and 400 level courses. Recommendation that graduate students be blocked from enrolling in courses and required to have approved form to enroll. Rationale from Financial Aid due to students enrolling in courses not related to degree. Concern that this is an academic not administrative issue. Dean Medeiros will meet with Provost and advise committee of discussion.

III. Responsible Conduct of Research Requirement
    Dean Medeiros advised that several disciplines had not submitted requested statement regarding compliance of course offerings. The committee requested that a letter be sent to those disciplines advising that they are not in compliance and of the need to submit for committee approval.

IV. Program Goals and Objectives – Brainstorming
    Origin of interdisciplinary program discussed which was approved under George Russell when university had few Ph.D. programs and wanted research degree in addition to liberal arts. Committee consensus was the need for additional financial support as well as the need for marketing of the program.

V. The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.