Minutes/Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Executive Committee Meeting

October 14, 2011

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

Excused Absences: Diane Smith, Joe Singer, John Herron, Charles Wurrey

Guests: Nathan Lindsey, Jessie Riggs (Assessment Office) Nathan Oyler (Chemistry), Quincy Bennett Johnson, Patricia Hovis-French Colleen Kelly (SGS)

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

II. Assessment
Assistant Vice-Provost for Assessment, Dr. Nathan Lindsey, was introduced by Dean Medeiros. Dr. Lindsey provided handouts and an analysis of the rubric used in the Spring 2011 Pilot Project developed to review Student Learning Outcomes utilizing the dissertation of Interdisciplinary Ph.D. students. The following areas were reviewed:

- **Method of Research** - Command of the proper method of research or experimentation
- **Use of new material** - Command of the material on the subject
- **Originality** - Originality and insight of the research question and interpretation of literature and findings
- **Style** - Clearness, logical organization, English style
- **Scope** - Adequacy of scope and substance
- **Summary** - Estimate of the work as a whole. Summarization and evaluation of the dissertation including appraisal of the contribution to the discipline

Subsequent discussion resulted in Drs. Laity and Black volunteering to work with Dr. Drew Bergerson in developing a rubric to analyze the second assessment phase which will be the oral dissertation defense.

Dr. Patricia Hovis-French provided an overview of assessment data from results of past surveys of Interdisciplinary Ph.D. graduates which is available for review on the SGS website.

III. Advice for the New Dean
Dean Medeiros requested feedback from the committee on priorities for the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. program. The following ideas were presented by the committee for consideration:

- Marketing and branding the program – non academics don’t know about UMKC or the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. program
- Emphasize to the University community just how critical the program is for the reputation of the institution
• Improve SGS website to serve as PR for internal/external communications (add info on grads, success stories of program participants and grads)
• Increase fellowships
• Little recognition for faculty
• Need to engage Deans and faculty
• Increase resources since there is currently no benefit to attract Ph.D. students
• Showcase research projects
• Increase stature of the program to show how it benefits the University
• Increase Development opportunities for the department in order to increase dollars and financial support by showing current student/faculty research and activities
• Advocate graduate education

IV. Continuing discussion on site Visit Report
Dean Medeiros informed the group that a response to the site visit would be provided to the Provost in mid-November. Drs. Blanton and Ching have worked with the Dean to assist in identifying areas for program improvement. A joint meeting of the Ph.D. Executive Committee and Discipline Coordinators has been scheduled for November 9th in order to gather additional recommendations for preparing a more comprehensive report.

V. Meeting Adjourned at 3:45 p.m.