Minutes/Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Executive Committee Meeting

October 8, 2010

Members present: Deep Medhi, Joe Singer, Jeff Gorski, John Herron, William Black, Charles Wurrey, Wai-Yim Ching, Rafia Rasu, Dianne Smith, Dean Ronald MacQuarrie (Chair), Nancy Hoover (administrative support)

I. Meeting called to order with minutes of the September 10, 2010 meeting approved.

II. Announcements
Dean MacQuarrie discussed the number of students currently enrolled in the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. program and the number of new admits for this year.

III. Program Evaluation
Dean MacQuarrie shared the results of a survey of Interdisciplinary Ph.D. students from last spring and asked for a volunteer to write up a summary of the results. Dr. Gorski volunteered to do so and Dr. Patricia Hovis-French will be asked to forward the data onto him for this task. Dr. Medhi also volunteered to construct some different graphics for the charts.

IV. Graduate and Doctoral Faculty Criteria and Appointments
Dean MacQuarrie explained that for the last few years the Graduate Council has been working on a restructuring of the appointment process, criteria for membership, and privileges of the graduate and doctoral faculty. The initial purpose of the restructuring was to expand the number of faculty allowed to serve as mentors and committee members for master's and doctoral students. Under the proposed guidelines, the category of Adjunct Doctoral Faculty would be eliminated. It was suggested that the new guidelines would be best implemented if the committees of Interdisciplinary Ph.D. students were to allow at least one of the members to be from outside the doctoral faculty.

The committee members present discussed the issues that led to the proposed changes and in a straw poll were in favor of allowing one graduate faculty member on Interdisciplinary Ph.D. student committees and that more may be allowed by petition only.

V. Posthumous Degree Requirements
Dean MacQuarrie distributed a policy statement regarding the awarding of posthumous degrees and invited discussion about how much work toward the degree should be completed in the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. program before a student could be awarded a posthumous degree. The committee suggested that putting an exact amount of credit toward degree was extremely difficult and also suggested that perhaps the posthumous degree should carry some other title (akin to "honorable") to distinguish it from other doctoral degrees.

VI. National Research Council Project
A few years ago, UMKC gathered data and participated in the NRC project on assessment of research doctorate programs. The report was released on September 28, 2010 and consists of a descriptive volume, and a comprehensive data table in
Excel containing data on characteristics and ranges of rankings for over 5000 programs in 62 fields at 212 institutions. Results may be seen here: http://sites.nationalacademies.org/pga/Resdoc/index.htm#reports

VII. The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.