Minutes of the Doctoral Program Subcouncil Meeting

The Doctoral Program Subcouncil met on Tuesday, November 14, 2006 at 7:00 a.m. in RSC 215/17.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dean S. Kovar, Associate Dean D. Eichhorn, R. Calabrese, T. DiLollo for CSD/AuD, K. Hoffmann, K. Lewis, V. Madhavan, L. Paarmann, J. Patterson, J. Snyder, and C. Wolf.

I. Approve Minutes of November 11, 2005 meeting
Minutes of the March 30, 2006 meeting were approved with minor changes.

II. Dissertation Chairing Nominations
The following faculty members were awarded dissertation chairing status:
- Dr. Haitao Liao – Industrial & Manufacturing Engineering
- Dr. Ikramuddin Ahmed – Mechanical Engineering
- Dr. Ramazan Asmatulu – Mechanical Engineering
- Dr. Behnam Bahr – Mechanical Engineering
- Dr. Hamid Lankarani – Mechanical Engineering

III. Old Business
- Dean Kovar reported that ProQuest plans to index theses and dissertations with Google, and that they will redo agreements with students in order to allow students to say if they want to index or not. At the last meeting, Subcouncil decided not to implement “open access” with ProQuest, which allows free downloading access of each thesis or dissertation, but discussed the option further, as well as using the University Library for this service. Dean Kovar plans to have Kathy Downes from the Library come to the spring Subcouncil meeting to discuss options further.
- After checking with the WSU Counseling and Testing Center, Dean Kovar reported that WSU would NOT be a testing site for the GRE since there is a testing site in the mall at Brittany Center (21st & Woodlawn).
- Dean Kovar announced that Dr. Dave McDonald from ORA and the Graduate School have “bridging” Grant Funds available to help students if funding expires one or two semesters before they graduate. Subcouncil suggested that guidelines be created for the awarding of such funds. Dean Kovar agreed to draft such guidelines with Dr. McDonald and then have the Subcouncil review the guidelines.
- Dean Kovar noted Council has approved Accelerated/Concurrent bachelor to master’s programs. Implementation procedures are nearly developed. Dean Kovar will provide procedures to the group when completed.
- Dean Kovar provided Subcouncil with the latest Request to Schedule Oral Defense form, noting the information added in the last bullet. Dean Kovar also indicated that the definition of an oral defense and the process for holding the defense will be added to the 2007-08 Graduate Catalog.
- Subcouncil members reviewed and approved the Engineering Graduate Faculty Revised Criteria for awarding dissertation chairing standing to full members of the engineering graduate faculty.

IV. New Business
- Dean Kovar provided Subcouncil members with the position description for the open AVP position and asked members to encourage qualified candidates to apply.
Dr. Patterson raised an issue regarding the composition of dissertation committees in Educational Leadership. With only 3 and ½ faculty members in the department, each faculty member has to serve on all dissertation committees. This burdens the faculty as well as limits the student's choices. Dean Kovar indicated that Board policy indicates having at least 3 faculty with terminal degrees for each level of program offered. Thus Educational Leadership (with the EdD and the master’s program) should have a minimum of 6 faculty members to run those two programs. Continued discussion of this item will occur via e-mail.

Dr. Madhavan discussed with Subcouncil the idea of dissertations being comprised of several published (or submitted) articles for engineering students. Various issues were raised (e.g., what is the acceptable definition of a dissertation, can the separate articles be tied together for a dissertation document, and can we deal with multiple author articles)? More information will be gathered, and this discussion will continue via e-mail.

Dean Kovar provided a binder with information helpful to Subcouncil members as they prepare for the HLC visit. The binder contained mission, governance and assessment documents that guide the actions of the Graduate School and graduate faculty as they strive to provide quality graduate education to WSU graduate students.

V. As May Arise

- Students will take a revised GRE general test beginning in September 2007. The general test will still have three sections (verbal, quantitative and analytical writing). The analytical writing test will be re-named: Critical Thinking and Analytical Writing; however, its scoring will remain the same (0-6 score range with .5 increments). The verbal and quantitative tests will have a new scoring system. Each section will have a score range of 130-170 with a mean of 150 and 1 point increments. The current verbal and quantitative tests have a score range of 200-800 with 10 point increments. ETS will also provide a new service: the ability for institutions to see the actual writing responses of their applicants.

- Associate Dean Eichhorn noted that the deadline for GRASP Abstracts is this Friday, November 17. He asked members to encourage students to present their work at the GRASP Symposium in April 2007. First place will be awarded $700 with second and third place receiving $300.

- Dr. Paarmann noted that Electrical Engineering will be requiring the GRE for masters programs.

- As HLC will visit campus at the end of March 2007, Dean Kovar may pull a group together in early spring to prepare/review for that visit.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.