Minutes of the Doctoral Program Subcouncil Meeting

The Doctoral Program Subcouncil met on Monday, November 24, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. in RSC 207.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Associate Dean Masud, Assistant Dean Alagic, I. Ahmed, J. Bann, B. Hodson, K. Hoffmann, C. Ma, V. Madhavan, K. Miller, K. Pitetti, V. Schaffer, X. Sun, and J. Watkins.

I. Approve Minutes of April 28, 2008 meeting
Minutes of the April 28, 2008 meeting were approved as distributed.

II. Graduate Faculty Nominations
The following faculty members were awarded dissertation chairing status:
- Douglas English  Chemistry
- Ed Sawan   Electrical Engineering & Computer Science
- Lyn Goldberg Communication Sciences & Disorders
- Barbara Hodson Communication Sciences & Disorders
- Julie Scherz Communication Sciences & Disorders
- Kathy Strattman Communication Sciences & Disorders
- Sabrina Low Psychology
- Rui Ni Psychology
- Mara Alagic Educational Leadership
- Dharam Chopra Mathematics
- Victor Isakov Mathematics

III. New Business
a. Collaborative Doctoral Programs with other Institutions
Associate Dean Masud asked that Subcouncil review whether or not to allow collaborative doctoral programs being established between Wichita State and other institutions outside of the US. Two outside institutions have approached Associate Dean Masud about the option, and he described how the programs would possibly be set up for students seeking a degree from WSU, and asked for suggestions/input from members. Questions were raised about the transferability of courses; meeting the one year residency requirement; and how to handle requests from institutions that are research only. If allowed, it was agreed that WSU apply their guidelines to the program, and the main student advisor be from WSU. A co-advisor (who is granted graduate faculty standing at WSU) could be listed from the other institution. Generally, doctoral programs consist of 36 hours of coursework, and with graduate students being allowed to transfer one-third or 12 hours (whichever is greater) from other institutions, then about two-thirds of the student's coursework would be here at WSU. In most situations, this would mean the student would spend at least a year here at WSU. Subcouncil members agreed to look at a proposal, and will discuss further in spring 2009 meetings.

IV. As May Arise
Subcouncil members asked about the budget situation within the Graduate School. Associate Dean Masud indicated preparations are being made for a 4% budget cut this fiscal year, and a 9% cut in FY10. He does not currently see cuts that would affect graduate assistant benefits at this time, but could not speak for future years. He indicated that money previously used for student travel is no longer available, so he and Dean McDonald are currently working to locate funding for student’s to travel for conferences/presentations.

Meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.