Minutes of the Doctoral Program Subcouncil Meeting

The Doctoral Program Subcouncil met on Friday, November 30, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. in RSC 215.


I. Approve Minutes of November 9, 2007 meeting
Minutes of the November 9, 2007 meeting were approved as distributed.

II. Graduate Faculty Nominations
The following faculty members were awarded dissertation chairing status:
- Dr. Ravi Pendse  Electrical & Computer Engineering

III. Old Business
Subcouncil members were provided a draft document which revises page 27 of the 2007 Guide to Preparation of Theses/Dissertations with regard to alternative format options for thesis/dissertations. After discussing their concerns and support, members motioned to allow alternative options, but agreed there should be more revision to the guidelines regarding issues of authorship, quality of publications, number of articles required, and submitted versus accepted versus submission-ready articles. Dean Kovar will make changes to the draft document based on the discussion that occurred and email the changes to Subcouncil members for their review. Discussion will continue at the next Subcouncil meeting in the spring 2008 semester.

b. Ownership of Patents and Publications
Item has been moved for discussion at the next Subcouncil meeting in spring 2008.

IV. New Business
a. Role Statement for Thesis and Dissertation Committees
Dean Kovar asked for input from Subcouncil on the draft document previously emailed to members regarding the role of thesis and dissertation committees. Subcouncil members agreed the document would be a helpful resource for new faculty that could be added to the Graduate Catalog, and also presented to new faculty at their orientation workshop. Dean Kovar will make a couple of suggested changes and take the document to the Graduate Council for their review during the spring 2008 semester.

V. As May Arise
- Dean Kovar announced that discussion is continuing with Provost Miller and Dave McDonald to increase stipends for graduate assistants. She recently discussed with them the required work load of WSU teaching assistants compared to GTA’s at KU and KSU. WSU GTAs must teach 2 three-credit hours courses to be considered full-time, while other institutions only require GTAs to teach 1 three-hour course to be considered full-time. Victoria Shaffer brought this inequity to her attention, and this inequity will continue to be part of the discussion centered on ways to improve stipend levels.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.