Minutes of the Doctoral Program Subcouncil Meeting

The Doctoral Subcouncil met on Monday, November 30, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. in RSC 207.


Members introduced themselves and indicated the area they represent on the Subcouncil.

I. Approve Minutes of April 24, 2009 meeting
Minutes of the April 24, 2009 meeting were approved as distributed.

II. Graduate Faculty Nominations
The following faculty members were awarded dissertation chairing status:
- Anthony DiLollo    CSD
- Trisha Self     CSD
- Antje Mefferd     CSD
- Alex Chaparro    Psychology
- Barbara Chaparro    Psychology
- Rhonda Lewis-Moss    Psychology
- Dennis Burns    Chemistry
- David Eichhorn    Chemistry
- William Groutas    Chemistry
- Kandatege Wimalasena    Chemistry
- Klaus Hoffmann    Aerospace Engineering
- Roy Myose     Aerospace Engineering
- Michael Papadakis    Aerospace Engineering
- Charles Yang    Aerospace Engineering
- Yanwu Ding     Electrical Engr/Computer Science
- Neeraj Jaggi    Electrical Engr/Computer Science
- Ward Jewell    Electrical Engr/Computer Science
- Preethika Kumar    Electrical Engr/Computer Science
- Hyuck Kwon    Electrical Engr/Computer Science
- Vinod Namboodiri    Electrical Engr/Computer Science
- Prakash Ramanan    Electrical Engr/Computer Science
- Bin Tang     Electrical Engr/Computer Science
- Gamal Weheba    Industrial & Manufacturing Engr
- Lawrence Whitman    Industrial & Manufacturing Engr
- T.S. Ravi    Mechanical Engineering

III. New Business
a. Doctor of Nursing Practice
Subcouncil members discussed whether or not to require an external member on the committee for DNP students. Dr. Huckstadt from Nursing indicated that students in this program do a terminal project rather than a dissertation. Once a student has completed their residency and defended the project, a completion memo, not the project, is submitted to the Graduate School by the committee. Following discussions, Subcouncil members agreed not to require an external member for DNP committees.

b. External member as chair of oral exam meeting for all thesis/dissertations
In order to clarify earlier communications sent to Graduate Faculty, Associate Dean Masud indicated that the intended task of an outside member on thesis/dissertation committees is
only to preside over the oral exam meeting, not to chair the committee throughout the student’s entire research process. He went further to affirm the primary responsibilities of the outside member is to represent the Graduate School to assure the work meets academic standards, and ensure the student is treated appropriately by the committee.

Dr. Masud also noted, that the topic of the outside member chairing the defense hearing, and the plagiarism issue are two separate items, and were not raised as a result of the other. As both items have been tabled for further deliberation by the Graduate Council, he asked Subcouncil to put forward recommendations and/or comments they wish Council to consider. Members made the following points:

- requested that the items be tabled until much later date
- Psychology noted they are not in favor of the outside member presiding over defense hearing
- concern that faculty will not want to take on the duty/role as an outside member
- questioned how an external member is dealt with if they are removed from the committee...How is the outside member notified if they are replaced on the committee? Will the Grad School step in to handle the situation?
- suggested that outside member only preside over dissertation hearings, not masters level

IV. As May Arise

- Subcouncil members suggested that dissertation chairing criteria for each program be reviewed by Graduate Council, as it has been a number of years since the criteria was first created. Subcouncil would also like to approve the criteria since they are the group who reviews, and approves/disapproves each application submitted for chairing status.
- AD Masud indicated there will most likely be need for two Subcouncil meetings in the spring semester. One in late February and another in late April.
- Dr. Goldberg shared an idea from Health Professions regarding graduate programs offering modules about research that students can take at colleges different from their own. It could be effective in terms of offerings courses to graduate students that exposes graduate students to interdisciplinary ideas they can utilize in their program of study. Dr. Goldberg accepted a suggestion to prepare a draft document for Subcouncil review when they meet in the spring.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.