Minutes of the Doctoral Program Subcouncil Meeting

The Doctoral Program Subcouncil met on Monday, March 24, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. in RSC 207.


I. Approve Minutes of February 25, 2008 meeting
Minutes of the February 25, 2008 meeting were approved as distributed.

II. Graduate Faculty Nominations
The following faculty member was awarded dissertation chairing status:
- Dennis Siginer  Mechanical Engineering

III. Old Business
a. Audit of Program Compliance with Doctoral Program Regulations
Dean Kovar indicated she will again email Subcouncil members with a copy of the Doctoral Program Regulations asking that they review their individual programs and take notes to see if their program area complies with current regulations. Members are to bring their review to the next Subcouncil meeting on April 28th. It would also be appropriate at the next meeting to discuss any changes needed to the Regulations so they better serve our students and our mission.

b. Alternative Formats Update
Dean Kovar announced that Graduate Council members voted to approve the motion put forth by Subcouncil to allow an “article” format option for thesis/dissertations. The new format may start being used for students graduating in the Fall 2008 semester and beyond.

c. Time to Degree Completion
Dean Kovar previously emailed to Subcouncil members time to degree completion data for their individual programs. She asked that members discuss the document with their departments for input as to whether or not the data suggest that students are graduating in a timely manner.

IV. New Business
a. WSU Strategic Research Plan
AVP David McDonald, Director of Research, joined Subcouncil to discuss the strategic research plan that the University Research Council has been discussing. The main categories of sponsored research, specified by the URC at their January meeting, have been laid out in a draft document that Dr. McDonald will email to Subcouncil. Dr. McDonald indicated that the list is not fixed and can be changed as needed in the future, and was created after looking at what best serves the mission of WSU as an urban university. He plans to attend the next Subcouncil meeting on April 28th to discuss the document further.

b. Audit of Department Criteria for Dissertation Chairing Standing
This item has been moved to the fall 2008 Council agenda.

V. As May Arise
- Associate Dean Eichhorn noted that the GRASP Symposium (Graduate Research and Scholarly Projects) is on Friday, April 25 at the Hughes Metropolitan Complex. He encouraged members to attend if possible, between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., to support their students. Student presentations begin at 9:30 a.m. and run to 3:30 p.m.; award ceremony begins at 4:15 p.m.
- Associate Dean Eichhorn noted that he and 12 graduate students from WSU attended the 2008 Capitol Graduate Research Summit in Topeka on April 13. Along with graduate students from KU and K-State, the group displayed posters describing their research. The summit is designed to show Kansas legislatures why research is important, in hopes of creating more awareness for research support/funding. This is the fifth year for the CGRS.

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.