Minutes of the Doctoral Program Subcouncil Meeting

The Doctoral Subcouncil met on Monday, March 8, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. in RSC 305.


I. Approve Minutes of April 24, 2009 meeting
Minutes of the November 30, 2009 meeting were approved as distributed.

II. Graduate Faculty Nominations
The following faculty members were awarded dissertation chairing status:
- Linda Bakken, Ed Leadership
- Andrew Acker, Mathematics/Statistics
- Alexander Bukhgeym, Mathematics/Statistics
- Alan Elcrat, Mathematics/Statistics
- Buma Fridman, Mathematics/Statistics
- Kirk Lancaster, Mathematics/Statistics
- Ken Miller, Mathematics/Statistics
- Hari Mukerjee, Mathematics/Statistics
- Zigi Sun, Mathematics/Statistics
- Elizabeth Behrman, Physics/Mathematics
- William Stevenson, Chemistry

Erach Talaty in Chemistry was tabled for next Subcouncil meeting in order to acquire additional information on number students he supervised.

III. New Business
a. Update on External Member Role
Associate Dean Masud indicated the outside member of thesis/dissertation committees will not be required to chair the defense meeting, therefore their role remains as it always was. Also, there will not be a percentage requirement placed on the SafeAssign (or other) process performed by the committee chair, however the revised Recommendation for Degree form, submitted from the committee to the Graduate School, will require a signature from the committee chair on the following statement regarding their student’s submission:

“As this student’s Committee Chair, I hereby confirm that I have, to the best of my ability examined the entire content of this thesis/dissertation submission. I find that this thesis/dissertation submission does not contain plagiarized material, and may now be accepted in satisfaction of degree completion requirements in accordance with Graduate School standards. The following method was utilized to check for plagiarism:

☐ SAFE ASSIGN ☐ Other________ .”

Dr. Masud updated members that the plagiarism review within the College of Engineering has been nearly completed, and many students have re-defended and cleared their work. He also noted that all LAS dissertations have now been reviewed and no significant problems were found. As well, with so few problems found within review of both CSD and EdD, no further PhD reviews will be made, and Dean McDonald plans to meet with Engineering Dean Toro-Ramos and Engineering Associate Dean Kamran Rokhsaz to resolve similar issues from happening in future.
b. Research Topic Modules update
Dr. Lyn Goldberg indicated there is general interest for graduate programs to offer research modules for students to take across different disciplines here at WSU. Ideas were suggested for what types of courses to develop, and allowing for modules to be required by a program/advisor on a student’s POS. Members suggested creating a list of what is currently being offered by various departments and determine where focus should be placed i.e. research methods, statistical, general, etc., and how to fit (one hour) modules into programs.

IV. As May Arise
Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.