Minutes of the Doctoral Program Subcouncil Meeting

The Doctoral Program Subcouncil met on Friday, April 24, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in RSC 216.

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

I. Approve Minutes of November 24, 2008 meeting
Minutes of the November 24, 2008 meeting were approved as distributed.

II. Graduate Faculty Nominations
The following faculty members were awarded dissertation chairing status:
- Don Malzahn Industrial & Manufacturing Engineering
- Phil Parker Mathematics & Statistics

III. New Business
a. GRE Requirement
Subcouncil members discussed whether or not to continue the GRE requirement for doctoral program admission. Currently, all students applying for doctoral programs are required to submit an acceptable GRE score taken within the last five years. This also allows for a student to be admitted on a “conditional” basis, which gives the student one semester to submit the GRE after admission. In some cases, this can create a problem later, if a student applies to graduate and during degree check, it is found the student never submitted the GRE within the one semester allotted time.

Following the discussion, Subcouncil voted to remove the requirement at the Graduate School level in favor of moving the option to the department level. Departments may choose to keep the requirement, but will no longer be able to accept a student a conditional basis. The motion will be taken to the Graduate Council for vote in the fall, and a decision on when to implement the change, if approved.

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 other funding for student's to travel for conferences/presentations.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.