Minutes of the Doctoral Program Subcouncil Meeting

The Doctoral Program Subcouncil met on Monday, April 28, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. in RSC 207.


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

II. Graduate Faculty Nominations
The following faculty member was awarded dissertation chairing status:
- Xiao-Ming Sun Audiology

III. Old Business
a. WSU Strategic Sponsored Research Plan
AVP David McDonald, Director of Research, joined Subcouncil to further discuss the strategic research plan that has been laid out by the University Research Council. Three main categories of sponsored research, specified by the URC at their January meeting, are listed below (established, promising, and emerging) with no order of priority. 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.

- Established (areas that are funded and largely self-supporting):
  - Aerospace Engineering Research
  - Center for Community Support and Research (formerly Self-Help Network)
  - Chemistry (polymer)
  - Communication Sciences and Disorders
  - Cisco Center
  - Human Factors Psychology

- Promising (areas with some funding; should know viability in 2-5 years):
  - Orthopedic Research (partnership with Via Christi Orthopedic Research Institute)
  - KU Planning Grant (for Biomaterials Center of Innovation)
  - Biology Field Station (land near Ninnescah)
  - Mechanical Engineering (nanomaterials)
  - Regional Institute on Aging
  - Sustainability Engineering (sustainable energy solutions in aerospace)

- Emerging (areas with no current funding; should know viability in 5-10 years):
  - Electrical and Computer Engineering - Data Storage (partnership with LSI)

He identified the following items at the leading edge. Applied Sciences in:
  - Aerospace Engineering (related to regional industry needs)
  - Information Technology (networking and data storage)
  - Materials Science (composite and nanomaterials)
  - Sustainability Engineering (related to regional industry needs)
  - Health Sciences (aging, aerospace, and regional healthcare needs)

These three were identified as the basic foundation of support for the leading edge:
  - Biology and Chemistry (statewide biosciences)
  - Math and Physics (aerospace, IT, and biosciences)

Social Sciences (aerospace, aging, IT, and biosciences)
b. Audit of Program Compliance with Doctoral Program Regulations
Subcouncil members discussed reviews of their individual program areas to determine if all programs meet the current regulations. Discussion focused on needed changes to the regulations to more closely fit the needs of programs. Members determined that the following items should be discussed further when Subcouncil meets in Fall 2008:

- Defining “full-time residency” and the reason for the residency requirement
- Allowing part-time doctoral students
- Review of the 6-year time limit
- Defining “qualifying exam” for consistency throughout all programs
- Updating regulations as needed in the Graduate Catalog

IV. New Business
a. Increases to Minimum GA Stipends
Dean Kovar provided a handout which indicates minimum stipend levels are increasing for graduate assistant positions, in order to meet the Federal Minimum Wage. She also noted beginning with FY09, all assistantship money (except mill levy money) is being distributed to the colleges, and budget requests for assistantships will be handled by each college dean’s office rather than the Graduate School.

V. As May Arise
- Dean Kovar passed around a brochure for the Technical Assistance Workshop that is being sponsored by the National Institute on Aging, and noted that since the WSU Regional Institute on Aging Director, Terry Radebaugh, hosted the regional meeting this year, WSU students have an advantage for getting into the workshop. Interested students should be encouraged to contact Terry for further information on applying for the workshop which will be held November 20-21, 2008.
- Dr. Klaus Hoffmann, on behalf of Subcouncil members, thanked Dean Kovar for chairing the Doctoral Program Subcouncil, and for all of her hard work over that last several years. Members wished her well in her upcoming retirement.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.