

Doctoral Advisory Committee Meeting  
Minutes  
November 12, 2007

Present: Muehsam, Conroy, Klespis, Olson, Price, Titterington, Watts

I. Approve Minutes

The minutes from the meeting of October 1, 2007 were approved.

II. GEAC Update

Dr. Muehsam reported that the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) has tightened the pathway to acquiring new doctoral programs in the state of Texas. It is felt that some of the doctoral programs in the state are substandard. Therefore, it is very likely that over the next year overtures will be made to institute procedures to justify the quality of existing doctoral programs. Documenting our successes in our programs is extremely important for justification. There is expectation of more in-depth reviews of existing programs to see which ones are not necessary.

There is a new process for approval of doctoral degree programs. The proposal draft will be sent to the System's Office for their comments, first. They will work with THECB before the System's Office approval, and then the proposal will go to the Board for review.

The Committee was reminded of the importance of following the examples of a few of the measures of quality for the doctoral programs:

- Defining core faculty
- Percentage of students with full-time support
- Average financial support provided for full-time students
- Student publications
- Core publications

III. Miscellaneous

The Office of Graduate Studies provides travel funds for graduate faculty as well as for graduate students traveling to present. The question arose concerning the possibility of providing travel funds for graduate students to attend events as observers (future presenters) of presentations. It was the consensus of the Committee that the funds should be made available only for graduate students who are presenting. This item of discussion will be presented to the Graduate Council for their input.