



**Interdisciplinary Graduate Program Advisory Board
September 11, 2012**

The Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs Advisory Board, a governance board of the Council on Graduate Studies, met from 3:00 to 4:15 p.m. Tuesday, September 11, in 3108 Blair Hall.

Members Attending: Dean Ornes, Dean Jackman, Dean Irwin, Dean Augustine, Associate Dean Snyder, Dr. Gaines, Dr. Cornebise, Dr. Liu, Dr. Frank, Dr. Phillips (for Dr. Bates), Ben Rienbolt (staff support)

Master of Science in Geographic Information Sciences (GIS)

Dr. Gaines and Dr. Cornebise provided an update on the MS in GIS. There were 6 candidates enrolled for the Fall 2012 term with 2 funded through external agents and 1 funded through the Graduate School. The program is working to develop some on-line courses because the program's mission focuses on working professionals. Similarly, the program is working to develop an evening course rotation that would support working professionals. The program is also engaged in the process of achieving the Professional Science Master's designation. Dr. Gaines noted that paperwork has been filed with IBHE to create a free-standing degree program. She also noted that students have inquired about a dual MS in GIS and Sustainable Energy. Dr. Gaines raised concerns for insuring access to MBA 5010 and Associate Dean Snyder agreed to examine the course's planned rotation in the coming year.

Master of Science in Sustainable Energy

Dr. Liu provided an update on the MS in Sustainable Energy. Paperwork has been filed the IBHE to get formal approval of the degree, in the interim, 5 students currently enrolled in the MS in Technology for the Fall 2012 have identified themselves as candidates for the MS in Sustainable Energy. Dr. Liu reviewed some of the curricular challenges and reported that he will be meeting later this week with the chairs of the 10 departments that support the program to insure a full complement of courses for the coming year. Members in attendance suggested that a Certificate in Sustainability may be a good option for the program to consider. Dr. Liu noted the critical importance of securing graduate assistantship funding to sustain enrollments and noted that the Graduate School has funded 1 assistantship for the Fall 2012 term. Dean Augustine reported that he has requested additional funding. Dr. Liu also discussed the importance of developing some dual degree options.

Master of Arts in Gerontology

Dr. Frank provided an update on the MA in Gerontology. She noted that the program lost the support of the Sociology Department last year; but the transition to using an FCS course in place of the SOC course has gone well. Dr. Frank reported that Dr. Brian Pritchett replaced Dr. Phyllis Croissant in the Kinesiology and Sports Studies area. She also reported that the Gerontology Advisory Board had revised learning goals and revamped assessment program. She noted that the program is receiving increased interest from out-of-state students. The program will undergo its 7-year IBHE Review this year. Dr.

Frank also reported that she now has the procedures for pursuing a Gerontology prefix for courses in the program and reviewed the Gerontology Research Speakers Series.

Master of Arts in Arts Management

Dean Irwin reported on progress with the MA in Arts Administration. She explained that Dr. Jean Wolski, chair of Theater Arts and Dr. Cheryl Noll, Chair of the School of Business were taking the lead on curriculum development, but the program continued to search for a faculty member in the fine arts who might lead and promote this initiative. Dean Irwin reported that many of the agencies that affiliate with the Doudna Fine Arts Center are excited about the possibility of Eastern offering this degree.

Master of Science in Health Care Administration

Dr. Phillips reported on progress with the MS in Health Care Administration. She noted that the program was still in the fact finding stages of discussion for the degree and studying what courses are currently available and what gaps in the curriculum need to be filled in order to offer the degree. She reported that program representatives had received funding from the Graduate School to attend the conference on health care certification administration as part of their research on the degree.

Concluding Discussion

The meeting concluded with an informal discussion that raised questions about accreditation issues among the programs and the critical need from Graduate School for web page development. Dean Irwin also noted that the College Deans had added interdisciplinary study to their undergraduate program development agenda.

Next Meeting

Dean Augustine reported that the Board will hold its next meeting at **3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 29, 2013 in 3108 Blair Hall**. He asked program leaders to call any concerns to his attention that should be on the January meeting agenda.

C: Council on Graduate Studies
Provost Lord