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University of Northern Iowa Graduate Council Minutes, October 22, 2009

Graduate Council, University of Northern Iowa.

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UNI Graduate Council Minutes #986

Graduate Council

UNI Graduate Council Minutes No. 986

October 22, 2009

Present: Bybee, Buckholz, Clayton, Coon, Coulter, Czarnetzki, Fecik, Harton, Stalp, Schuchart,

Thompson, Waldron, Wurtz

Guests: Robinson, MacKay, Wallace

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. Waldron thanked the members of the Graduate Council who attended the Town Hall meeting yesterday. Joseph is attending the session being held today. Waldron welcomed Victoria Robinson, Educational Leadership, Counseling and Postsecondary Education. Motion by Thompson to approve October 8, 2009 minutes; motion was seconded by Clayton. Motion approved. There were no Graduate College reports. Clayton noted a meeting has been scheduled to discuss the proposed shortened semester. If the policy is adopted, there are potential consequences for graduate assistants. Graduate assistants are only paid for time worked and not during breaks. Clayton stated she and Wurtz would be among faculty leadership meeting with President Allen on Friday. She asked any suggestions be forwarded to them. Waldron offered to draft a resolution; Wurtz stated meeting agenda has been sent out. Wurtz said members of the Graduate Council could attend meeting and speak. Clayton and Coon will represent Graduate Council at the meeting. The issue of undergraduates pursuing graduate credit was raised during an Undergraduate Curriculum Committee meeting. The current catalog states graduate credit will only apply is student graduates within a specified time frame. The Undergraduate Curriculum Committee felt if a student had paid for and completed the requirements to earn graduate credit, the credit will remain graduate credit. A new proposed policy will remove time constraints and also remove the rule regarding how many credits a student has left to earn undergraduate degree before they are allowed to start taking graduate courses. If a student has senior standing and submits a student request for graduate credit, it will be granted. The Graduate College will become involved if a student is junior or if their GPA is below 3.00. Earning graduate credit as senior does not guarantee credit can be applied toward graduate degree. The Undergraduate Curriculum Committee asked the Graduate College Curriculum Committee for input and the Graduate College Curriculum Committee set the requirements. Motion by Thompson to approve recommendation from the Graduate College Curriculum Committee. Harton seconded the motion. Motion approved. The policy will be presented to the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. Coon stated the first of the curriculum packets was ready for Graduate Council approval. Thompson questioned during tough budget times what are the resource implications. It was felt that improvement of graduate education by leveraging off current resources. The College of Social and Behavioral Sciences is the first to be approved due to lack of clean up issues. Stalp made the motion to approve the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences curriculum packet;

seconded by Harton. Motion approved. The next issue is recency; especially the transfer policy for the EdD program. The current major requires 60 credit hours; 50 credit hours at the 200 and 300 level. Fifteen credit hours can be transferred and will show on student's transcript as 100g courses. Vickie Robinson stated majority of students are currently principals or working on superintendent certification. Many of the students have taken credits at other universities to keep Iowa license current and want to transfer these credit to UNI and apply them toward their EdD degree. The different options discussed included allowing less transfer hours, requiring less 200/300 credits from UNI or using 200 level for some courses being transferred. Discussion also included what other universities in Iowa will allow for transfer credit. Vickie stated the students also do not want to take the extra time to finish their degree. Harton felt information from Iowa and Iowa State should weigh on the decision. The problem has been worse the last year, the EdD program has lost 8-10 students. Clayton asked if courses being transferred could substitute for required programs for UNI degree. The EdD degree in Educational Leadership is one of many EdD programs; rules will need to apply to all EdD programs. Stalp asked if this was just a recent issue or if it has been driven by economics. Wurtz asked if this was chance to look at inter-institutional operations/programs. Fecik stated at issue is 5 credit hours; would department require less hours to be completed at UNI and look at requirements needed at Iowa and Iowa State. Clayton asked Robinson which of three choices would work best for EdD leadership. Robinson thought bringing transfer courses in at 200 level would be best option; did not think limiting transfer hours or lowering the number of required hours at UNI would be best for their program. Waldron stated a comparison would be made between what UNI requires and what the University of Iowa, Iowa State University and Drake are doing.

Coon stated all representatives for the EdD program had been invited but other meetings had made it difficult for them to attend. Recommendations received from subcommittee included several options. The time limit to earn a degree could be 5 – 10 years; some schools apply the same time limit to all degrees and others vary time allowed according to degree. The current draft of the new recency policy states students would be allowed 7 years to finish degree; time starts with the first course taken that will be applied toward degree. Some EdD programs will have issues with students completing degree in 7 years and will lead to increased student requests. Curriculum and Instruction has requested seven years; but stated some students will take courses as non-degree seeking student and then will declare a major to finish the program. There was some concern about students attempting a doctoral degree while working full-time. Robinson stated some students get superintendent certification and will then decide to pursue EdD. Courses that apply toward certification can also apply toward degree and 7 years will start when first courses were taken toward certification. Thompson questioned the length of time the information in courses remains current. Robinson replied if the student is a practicing superintendent or principal they are current in today's issues. Coon summarized the wishes of the Educational Leadership EdD program by saying that students seeking an EdD degree would be allowed to transfer all hours earned but would be required to take the required core hours for their degree at UNI. Educational Leadership would also recommend waivers be granted to students who are current in their field but not recent in their studies. Fecik suggested an

entrance exam could be administered that would cover courses that may be out of recency period. Wurtz felt some courses could require students to complete a project and apply to degree. Clayton stated this may allow the granting of credit for life experience. Buckholz asked what consequences might be if this issue was decided on an individual case basis. Waldron stated it would continue the culture that irregardless of circumstances or classes waivers of recency would be approved. Robinson felt a stated policy would apply fairness and consistency for all students. Clayton thought a 7 year limit could be imposed and waivers used as needed. Thompson thought the 7 year limit needed to be enforced. Clayton asked Robinson if allowing program deadlines of 10-14 years would be helpful for students seeking degree. Robinson wants to maintain quality of degree. Doctoral students are allowed to take their comprehensive exams when two-thirds of the coursework has been completed. Coon stated masters are defined by the first course taken. Robinson stated most doctoral students in Educational Leadership are not full-time students but are working full-time. Robinson felt 8 years would be a good time limit.

Wurtz suggested individual programs decide time limits for degrees and report to Graduate Council. Coon must weigh each student request based on individual merit when requesting extension of recency. Discussion will continue at next Graduate Council meeting scheduled for November 12, 2009. The Council would like to be able to vote on this issue at next meeting also. Motion by Stalp to adjourn, seconded by Thompson. Motion approved. Meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Machelle Sticker

Secretary