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University of Northern Iowa Graduate Council Minutes, April 9, 2009

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UNI Graduate Council Minutes #982

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April 9, 2009

Present: Buckholz, Clayton, Coulter, Etscheidt, Harton, Joseph, Licari, Leutzinger, Nelson, Stalp, Thompson, Waldron, Wurtz

Absent: Fecik

Guests: Brucker, Schwieger

Waldron called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

1. Approval of minutes from March 12, 2009. Nelson made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 12, 2009 meeting. Motion was seconded by Etscheidt. Minutes were approved.
2. Graduate College Reports – Joseph reminded departments to forward names to Graduate College of Milestone Award recipients. Culminating projects count toward the award. A letter that is posted on the Board of Regents website has been sent to every media outlet in the U.S. and Joseph suggested the Council may be interested in reading it. Gloria Gibson, UNI's new Provost will speak at the Annual Graduate Faculty meeting on April 24. No report from Licari. Schwieger reported next year's symposium will be April 8, 2010. There will also be development workshops offered to graduate students. If anyone has ideas, please e-mail them to Schwieger.
3. Chair of Graduate Faculty – Clayton reported the last Brown Bag was well attended. She asked for suggestions for next year's Brown Bag series. Waldron announced Clayton was re-elected as the Chair of Graduate Faculty. Suggestions for next year can be e-mailed to Clayton.
4. Old Business – Waldron reminded the Graduate Council that there would be a vote at the annual Graduate Faculty meeting on the new Constitution. Waldron suggested having a parliamentarian at the meeting. There were several names suggested. Waldron will check with Thompson. Final changes need to be made today so the revised Constitution can be disseminated to graduate faculty. Harton asked about document received from Brucker. Nelson thought his information came from different university. Waldron reported he liked special faculty status information from other universities because they are allowed to serve on committees.
 - 4a. Waldron stated 2.2.1.2 currently says semester or year. It was suggested it remain at academic semester. Nelson suggested it could include up to one academic year.
 - 2.2.1.4 Additions and deletions to the roster shall be reported to the Graduate Council.

Changes will be reported annually. Paperwork for associate membership must be approved no later than one week before start of semester. Regular 2.2.1.3 Nelson suggested changing to make information about regular graduate faculty available. Regular members are the listed on the Graduate College's website.

Regular membership 2.3.3.4 the same provision should be included for associate members. Clayton discussed the cover letter that will sent to faculty with changes to the Constitution and explain the rationale for changes. Proposed changes will be discussed at Annual Graduate Faculty meeting before the vote. Waldron introduced Jody Brucker. Brucker's main concern is some staff may have medical or other degree but do hold academic degree. He would like associate members to serve on committees. Brucker felt some students choose non-thesis or research papers; and this may hurt UNI. Joseph stated faculty with clinical or terminal degrees were approved to have regular graduate faculty status. Nelson stated associate members are not long term members of UNI. Nelson stated an appeal process would be put into place under new constitution. Brucker was specifically wanting off campus staff to be on committee. Joseph stated off campus staff could be an additional member of committee. Nelson stated UNI wanted faculty with connection to UNI to be on committee. The thesis manual deals with the issue of off campus staff serving on committees. Thompson stated logistics of who serves on committee rests with graduate faculty of department. Licari stated politics of department should not be used to make changes to Graduate Council policy. External expertise can and should be used to provide guidance. Waldron stated another small change could be made; remove extra member and put additional member. The bylaws impact graduate faculty. Each department can set their own standards. Wurtz stated Graduate Council provides underlying quality foundation for departments to build upon. Nelson made a motion to approve the changes to the Constitution. Harton seconded the motion. Motion passed.

5. Motion by Stalp, seconded by Nelson to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m. The Annual Graduate Faculty meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 24, 2009. The next regularly scheduled Graduate Council meeting will be Thursday, September 10, 2009 at 3:30 p.m. in Lang 115.

Respectfully submitted

Machelle Stickler

Secretary