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University of Northern Iowa Graduate Council Minutes, March 12, 2009

Graduate Council, University of Northern Iowa.

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UNI Graduate Council Minutes #981

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March 12, 2009

Present: Buckholz, Clayton, Coulter, Etscheidt, Fecik, Hansen, Harton, Joseph, Licari, Nelson, Waldron, Wurtz

Guests: Donna Vinton, Schwieger

1. Waldron called the meeting to order at 3:30.
2. Motion by Fecik to approve February 26, 2009 minutes; seconded by Nelson. Fecik noted task forces were appointed by Graduate Council and there were two task forces. It was noted that the Graduate Faculty will need to approve changes to the Constitution naming temporary graduate faculty as Associate Members. Motion passed; one abstention.
3. Donna Vinton will give her presentation on Student Outcomes Assessment first and remainder of meeting will follow. Vinton talked to the Graduate Council about history at UNI, HLC (Higher Learning Commission) expectations, state of assessment at UNI, and thoughts on graduate program assessments. Vinton stated she is willing to talk to graduate faculty in greater detail if requested. Discussion and questions followed Vinton's presentation.
4. Graduate College Reports

Joseph reported the Annual Meeting is still in the planning stages. Date will be finalized once it is determined if the new Provost will be able to speak to graduate faculty. Current suggested dates are April 23 or April 24. Licari is working on a handbook for graduate coordinators. The handbook will be a compilation of information currently available. The handbook will be a resource for graduate coordinators. The handbook will be completed by fall 2009.

Schwieger reported March 27 is the next workshop for graduate students. She continues to work on plans for Graduate Student Appreciation Week. Online orientation will be ready by fall 2009 for graduate students.
5. Clayton reported Tony Gabriele's Brown Bag lecture will be two weeks later than scheduled. The new date for his presentation is April 8, 2009.
6. Waldron thanked Clayton for language changes to Constitution. Discussion regarding 2.2.2.3 (pg 2) that associate members are only appointed for a semester and if being a member of committee is feasible. Associate members are not allowed to chair thesis, research or dissertation. Harton suggested they could be fourth member. Nelson thought thesis manual should be looked at for possible changes to faculty. Dissertation

committee has five members, research has two members and thesis has three members. Waldron stated associate members would be teaching graduate courses specified on the nomination form. Current Constitution allows associate members to advise students. Fecik stated when a student starts a program the graduate coordinator is their temporary advisor. Further discussion regarding future voting options for Graduate faculty. Waldron and Clayton will bring changes discussed at meeting to the next Graduate Council meeting. Anyone with any changes should forward them to Waldron or Clayton. Clayton suggested a cover page to explain rationale for changes be included when the revised Constitution is distributed to Graduate faculty. Waldron stated next meeting will start in Baker 161 to celebrate the launch of the Journal of Contemporary Ethnography Editorship. If needed, the meeting will move to Lang 115. Changes to the Graduate Faculty Constitution will be finalized and voted on at the April 12, 2009 meeting of the Graduate Council.

7. New Business

Discussion regarding suspension of travel. It was felt under certain circumstances out-of-state travel should be allowed. Some possibilities are grant monies or staff paying their own expenses. It was suggested a statement from the Graduate Council could be sent to the President and the Provost. Joseph suggested the Faculty Senates from all three Regent universities should jointly send a letter to the Board of Regents. Wurtz cautioned letter should be carefully written so the wrong idea is not given. The source of funding for travel needs to be considered

8. Motion by Etscheidt, seconded by Wurtz to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Machelle Stickler
Secretary