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University of Northern Iowa Graduate Council Minutes, November 9, 2006

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UNI Graduate Council Minutes #959

November 9, 2006
The Graduate Council

UNI Graduate Council Minutes No. 959

Thursday, November 9, 2006

Present: Bowlin, Harton, Hensley, Joslyn, Jurgenson, Koch, Marshall, Nelson, Thompson

Absent: Etscheidt, Lynch, Mack, Moon, Prophet

Alternate: Laura Terlip for Pohl

1. Announcements from the Chair of the Council

Thompson reported a task force has been formed to explore ways in which graduate faculty may be recognized and rewarded. The committee is currently comprised of the following faculty: Doug Mupasiri, Ben Schaffer, Sam Lankford, Laura Terlip, Kim MacLin, and Barb Cutter.

2. Approval of the minutes from October 26, 2006

Nelson moved that the minutes be approved as distributed. Hensley indicated that he was absent from the meeting, not present. Harton pointed out that Etscheidt is also serving on the ad hoc committee regarding the online graduate application form and the approval process. The minutes were approved as corrected.

3. Graduate College Reports

Koch shared information she received from the Council of Graduate Schools regarding the financing of graduate education.

Susie Schwieger conducted a workshop for graduate students entitled, "Networking for Professional Development". A total of 16 students attended the workshop that was held on two days in November.

Doug Mupasiri, Coordinator of Minority Recruitment and Retention, attended a recruiting fair in New Orleans with Cliff Highnam and Ana Donaldson. About 40 information sheets were completed by prospective students from Xavier University and Dillard University.

Harton asked how many inquiries had been received from previous recruiting trips. Koch responded this number was less because recruiting is not recommended at the

University of New Orleans since the institution is still trying to rebuild from Hurricane Katrina.

Joslyn reported that Donna Wood's Brown Bag lecture on Global Business Citizenship: Taking Social Responsibility and Ethics Across Borders, was well attended. Three more Brown Bag lectures have been scheduled for spring semester.

4. Chair of the Graduate Faculty Report

Since Lynch was not in attendance there was no graduate faculty report.

5. Old Business

Presentation on work with Graduate Alumnae – Mark Jastorff

Mark Jastorff, Director of Alumni Relations, has been working with Koch on some graduate education initiatives. Thompson asked if the Alumni office has information on where graduate alumni are geographically located. Jastorff indicated the office maintains a database but estimates that 50-60% are in Iowa. The Alumni Association has launched Panther Union, a free online networking community that allows alumni to stay connected. At least 47 groups are organized on the site and over 2000 graduates have registered.

Ideas were discussed regarding ways to recognize and solicit graduate alumni. Koch will continue to work with Jastorff as well as the UNI Foundation on initiatives for graduate education. Jastorff indicated that the Alumni Relations office can financially assist with events such as the May reception held for graduating graduate students.

Review of Enrollment in Graduate Programs over the Past Five Years

Thompson distributed "A Summary of UNI Graduate Degrees Awarded in Each of the Last Five Years by Graduate Program".

6. New Business

PDA Selection and Award Process

Thompson indicated several questions have been raised about the Professional Development Assignment (PDA) process but doesn't know if the Graduate Council should provide input on the issues. The committee discussed several issues including reimbursement of royalties to the university, appearance of favoritism, number of PDAs, etc. Joslyn indicated the only issue that she is pursuing is a proposed change to the application instructions. The change would require faculty submitting proposals for creative works to include more information on how the project fits in with scholarly work in the field. The proposed change will be submitted to the College of Humanities and Fine Arts Senate for approval and will then be submitted to the Faculty Senate for final approval.

7. Adjournment

Thompson moved to adjourn at 4:53 p.m. Motion was seconded and passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Uehle,
Secretary