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University of Northern Iowa Graduate Council Minutes, September 14, 2006

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UNI Graduate Council Minutes #956

September 14, 2006

The Graduate Council

UNI Graduate Council Minutes No. 956

Thursday, September 14, 2006, 3:40 p.m., Lang 115

Present: Etscheidt, Harton, Hensley, Joslyn, Jurgenson, Koch, Kirmani (alternate for Prophet), Lynch, Mack, Marshall, Nelson, Pohl, Thompson

Absent: Bowlin, Moon

Guests: President Allen, Interim Provost Lubker, Richard Utz, Cynthia Coulter, Janet Witt

1. Information/Guest: President Allen, invited guest

Allen had two observations regarding graduate education at UNI. One is the offering of additional Ph.D. programs – he feels we could explore options but scrutinize them regarding competition at the national level. The second is that he feels we may have an ambitious number of master's programs for the number of faculty on staff.

Questions were raised regarding faculty research and external funding. Extensive discussion followed.

2. Minutes from April 27, 2006

Nelson moved to accept the minutes as distributed. Motion was seconded and passed.

3. Announcements from the Chair of the Council

Vice-Chair Jurgenson chaired the meeting in MacLin's absence.

4. Graduate College Reports

Koch provided an update on the implementation of the Graduate Education Strategic Plan. Each council member was given with a notebook that contained the strategic plan. Highlights of progress to date include:

- The Graduating Graduate Student Survey has been re-established; data and analysis will be available during September 2006.

-A Graduate Education Organization Chart has been developed (copies were distributed).

-The Carver Graduate Education Project was initiated.

-Susie Schwieger, Associate Director of Advising & Career Services, has been designated to work 1/3 time with the Graduate College. She will take leadership of specific strategies related to student services for graduate students.

-A certificate of membership was developed and has been sent to all graduate faculty.

-Doug Moupasiri, Professor of Mathematics, has assumed a part-time role as Coordinator of Minority Recruitment and Retention.

-The Graduate College signed an agreement with the Office of Sponsored Programs to encourage faculty grant writers to include graduate assistantship and tuition scholarship support in their proposals.

Koch reported that President Allen met with Graduate College staff as well as selected others on August 16. Allen appears to be a strong supporter of graduate education.

The Graduate College submitted a proposal to the CGS/Peterson's Award for Innovation in Promoting an Inclusive Graduate Community. If successful, the award will bring \$20,000 to the Graduate College for a three-year project.

Joslyn reported the first Carver Graduate Education Project has seventeen participants.

Joslyn will conduct a meeting on September 18 to update graduate coordinators regarding the transition from WebCT to web-based forms.

The Graduate Student Orientation was well attended and Joslyn thanked the council members for encouraging students to participate.

5. Chair of the Graduate Faculty Report

Lynch reported that she is working on the Brown Bag Series. The first Brown Bag will be held September 20 and Dr. John Johnson, the 2006-07 UNI Distinguished Scholar, will present on the topic of "Dear Mr. (and Madam) Justice: Reading the Mail of Members of the U.S. Supreme Court." Upcoming presentations will be given by Scott Cawelti, Donna Wood, Rebecca Burkhardt & Cynthia Goatley, Laura Jackson and Roy Behrens.

6. Action: Election of Chair

Jurgenson opened the floor for nominations for Chair. Thompson volunteered to serve as Chair. Thompson was elected Chair.

7. Action: Election of Vice Chair

Jurgenson opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chair. Nelson volunteered to serve as Vice-Chair. Nelson was elected Vice-Chair.

8. Action: Postponement/Skipping/Rescheduling of Sept. 28 meeting

Jurgenson moved to cancel the September 28 meeting since it conflicted with the President's installation reception. Motion was seconded and passed.

9. Information/Guest: Richard Utz, UNiversitas

Utz is in his second year as editor of UNiversitas, the University of Northern Iowa Journal of Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity. He discussed the rationale for the online publication in the hope that council members will promote it to colleagues and students. Two issues were published last year, one in the fall and one in the spring.

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10. Other Business

Cynthia Coulter, Head of Technical Services at the Rod Library and Associate Professor, suggested the Graduate Council consider a change be made for students who write a master's thesis. Currently the university requires doctoral students to submit a paper copy of their dissertation to a company that digitizes and then adds the dissertation to their online database so that it can be searched and downloaded. Coulter brought to the Council's attention that our contract with Proquest also permits us to have master's theses submitted in the same way. If so, the Council would need to revise the Thesis and Dissertation Manual. Koch asked Coulter to send suggestions for change to Joslyn so that the council can discuss them at the next meeting. Coulter also mentioned the Library has a new web site coming out later this semester that could provide access to PDF copies of Master's students' research papers and asked if members would be interested. Two departments indicated interest; Coulter will contact them.

11. Adjournment

Nelson moved to adjourn. Motion was seconded and passed. Meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Uehle
Secretary