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University of Northern Iowa Graduate Council Minutes, April 21, 2005

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UNI Graduate College Minutes #944

April 21, 2005
The Graduate Council

UNI Graduate Council Minutes No. 944

Thursday, April 21, 2005, 3:30 p.m., Lang 115

Present: Bozylinsky, Etscheidt, Fecik, Joslyn, Kirmani, Mack, MacLin, McGlade, Moore, Petersen, Pohl, Rajendran, Thompson, Walker

Absent: Jurgenson, Koch, Nelson

Guest: Sunggye Hong

1. Minutes from March 24, 2005

Fecik noted a change in the second paragraph of item 6, Action: GCCC elections/appointments. The first sentence should read: Fecik summarized the options discussed for determining GCCC membership... Moore moved to approve the minutes as revised. Motion was seconded and passed.

2, Graduate College Reports

Walker stated that the guidelines for the Distinguished Scholar Award indicate there should be two announcements distributed; one in April and one in the fall. Since the nomination process begins in the fall, he indicated that the April announcement will not be sent. Also, Walker and Koch feel that the university ought to do more to recognize the Distinguished Scholars; therefore, Koch is researching additional sources of funds to enhance the current award.

McGlade reported that she still has not heard whether the graduate grievance policy has been forwarded to the Cabinet. She recommended the Council's policy be posted on the web with a phrase, "Pending Cabinet approval".

3. Announcements

MacLin reported that Koch wished to express her thanks to everyone who participated in the Annual Graduate Faculty Meeting last week. Les Sims sent his thanks for an excellent visit.

Koch also asked MacLin to invite the Council to a reception for graduating graduate students. The reception will be held downtown Cedar Falls from 3:30-5:30 p.m. on Friday, May 6.

4. Report from the Chair of the Graduate Faculty

Kirmani thanked the Council members for their cooperation during the past year. Joslyn will be the Chair of the Graduate Faculty next year. Rajendran thanked Kirmani for his service to the Council.

5. Action: Women's Studies Program-Name Change to Women and Gender Studies

The Women's Studies Program requested this item be removed from the agenda. They plan to resubmit the request in the fall.

6. Action: Special Education-Visual Impairment Curriculum

Etscheidt asked that the action item be brought to the table for discussion. MacLin so moved and the motion was seconded and passed. Etscheidt introduced Dr. Sunggye Hong who developed the Visual Impairment Curriculum.

Hong thanked the Council for reviewing the proposal. He discussed the background regarding why the new program was developed.

Thompson asked why this program was brought forward outside the normal curriculum process. Etscheidt responded that any new program can be brought forward outside the curriculum approval process.

Thompson also asked if there would be budget implications due to the implementation of this new program. Hong indicated there will not be because his salary will now be paid from appropriated funds instead of soft money and many of the courses will be taught through Continuing Education over the ICN.

Students are already taking these courses but the Department of Education will not recognize an endorsement or certify the students to teach unless the program is approved by the degree granting institution and the Board of Regents.

McGlade asked if there will be sufficient demand to sustain the program. Hong indicated the projected number of students per cohort group will be 10-20, which will not create a great deal of competition for jobs.

Etscheidt moved that the Council approve the Visual Impairment Curriculum. Motion was seconded and passed.

7. Information: Plagiarism Report

McGlade had previously provided a summary via email and Fecik distributed a Summary of Items discussed at the Academic Ethics Forum held April 6, 2005.

McGlade asked if this issue should be a university wide initiative or dealt with just at the graduate level. Fecik indicated there is an undergraduate Academic Ethics Policy in the catalog but there is not a policy specifically for graduate students.

Thompson believes that the administration has not been supportive of faculty who decide to initiate action against students who plagiarize. A student in one of his classes

failed to cite appropriately; therefore, Thompson wrote the student a letter. He was told it was inappropriate to give the student an incomplete because the university might have liability.

Many ideas were discussed including: forming a task force within the Graduate Council, designing an on-line self test that would be tied to admission, designing a course that would cover the global topic of academic ethics that all graduate students would have to take, workshops for faculty, etc.

MacLin suggested the Council put forth a motion at the first meeting in the fall to draft a policy statement regarding academic ethics/plagiarism. Thompson believes the administration should first express support of the implementation of such a policy.

8. Action: GCCC Statement

McGlade distributed a draft of how membership on the Graduate Council Curriculum Committee will be determined. Nelson drafted the statement and Pohl and McGlade served as readers.

The drafted statement proposes the committee be comprised of nine voting members: one elected from each academic college and the Rod Library faculty, the joint UCC-GCCC faculty representative, and two voting members appointed by the Graduate Council, one to serve as chair, and the other to serve as chair-elect.

Thompson moved to accept the statement. The motion was seconded and passed.

The question was raised whether the joint UCC-GCCC faculty representative will be appointed or elected. Currently the representative is appointed but the statement indicates the representative will be elected. The decision was to maintain the representative as a position appointed by the Graduate Council. Therefore, Thompson amended his motion to include this correction. Motion was seconded and passed.

The initial election/appointment of GCCC members using the new policy will start next fall.

9. Other Business

MacLin indicated this was the final meeting of the year.

10. Adjournment

The motion to adjourn was seconded and passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Uehle
Secretary

