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University of Northern Iowa Graduate Council Minutes, March 14, 2002

Graduate Council, University of Northern Iowa.

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UNI Graduate Council Minutes #914

March 14, 2002

Present: Bozylinsky, Coulter, Fryman (for Fogarty), Hanson, Hart (for Dolgener), Jackson, Rajendran, Saiia, Somervill, Utz, Walker, Wallingford, Wong

Absent: Mosher, Smaldino

Visitors: Pam Mackay, Patty Rust

There were no corrections reported for the 913 minutes. Minutes were approved.

Somervill stated the concern with program requirements that call for more than 36 hours and whether or not those programs could be shortened. Council members were asked to look at the length of programs and relay ideas and comments to peers and back to the Council.

Jackson spoke on behalf of the Directed Research Course subcommittee, which consisted of Utz, Hanson, Dolgener, Fogarty, Patton and Jackson. The proposed catalog description was as follows:

XXX:259. Directed Research (In)...-1-12 hrs.

Course is available to thesis and non-thesis students on a Credit/No Credit basis. Students may enroll in the course following enrollment in all allowable hours of XXX:299 (6-9 hours for thesis students and 3 hours for non thesis students). Students may take this course for a maximum of six (6) hours per semester.

Proposed amendment to nongraded credit policy was as follows:

Up to three (3) credit hours of graduate non-graded course work may be applied within the program of study.

Exceptions are practica, internships, 299/399 Research and XXX:259 Directed Research.

Hanson made statements on the reasoning for this class and the necessity of credit restriction. He stated that this was not to contribute to the overstaying of graduate students. Twelve (12) hours is a reasonable limitation as if nine (9) hours are needed to maintain eligibility for financial aid and if a student is enrolled in four (4) semesters, they must have 36 hours, more than the 30 hours needed for the degree. This equals out to six (6) hours of directed research.

Somervill addressed questions regarding whether or not this is CNS specific and it was said that the problem had originated in CNS but the need later arose in SBS and this course could be generalized with different college/department requirements.

Hanson moved, seconded by Coulter, to accept the catalog description and the proposed amendment. The motion passed.

The subcommittee for the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate Program did not attend. Jackson spoke on behalf stating the committee wanted flexibility to let the department plan what they feel necessary. Jackson presented the final draft to the Council and Somervill recommended discussion over it. Jackson mentioned the committee was not comfortable setting hours for items nine (9) and ten (10), if department wants to set hours, it is to be indicated at program approval. Somervill brought up that certificate programs are supposed to be short-lived and usually fulfill an immediate need, certificate programs can also be used by a person unassociated with any college, whereas concentrations directly relate to degree programs. There was mention of addressing this topic with the Senate.

Next, Walker explained both the nature of Professional Development Assignments and the procedures for awarding them. Professional Development Assignments or PDAs are not sabbaticals. A five-person committee of tenured faculty, elected from each college, serving a three-year term, makes the selection for these. The master agreement provides for "regular" and "special" PDAs. There is no set number of PDAs by contract and no quotas by college or rank. However, the Provost traditionally authorizes the funding of eighteen (18) regular. The number of specials, which also go through automatic review, given in a year cannot diminish the number of regulars. Recipients must return to a full-time teaching position for at least one year following the PDA or reimburse the University pro-rata. Successful applicants must wait for three (3) years before applying again. Since 1991 the number of applicants has run between 26-47 with awards running between 18-24. Each unsuccessful applicant is invited to request summary feedback comments from the committee.

Somervill announced that the University was facing large cutbacks; and accounts for projects, research and travel were highly affected. There is the possibility of stricter guidelines with more limited access to a smaller amount of funds.

There were no items for publication.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Willits
Secretary