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## University of Northern Iowa Graduate Council Minutes, September 14, 2000

Graduate Council, University of Northern Iowa.

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# UNI Graduate Council Minutes #896

September 14, 2000

Present: Bankston, Coulter, Clayton, Jackson, Smaldino, Somervill, Utz, Vajpeyi, Walker, Wallingford, Wartick, Wong

Absent: Bozylinsky, Dolgener, Hanson, Rajendran

Visitors: Connie Erpelding-Curriculum and Instruction.

Vajpeyi called the meeting to order and asked everyone to introduce themselves to the new members of the council.

Action on minutes #895 were approved as published.

Vajpayi then asked members of the Council for nominations for the 2000-2001 officers. Utz nominated Wallingford for Chair of the Graduate Council. Smaldino seconded and Wallingford was elected. Smaldino nominated Utz for Vice Chair, Coulter seconded; he was elected.

Next on the agenda was communication from the Registrar regarding comprehensive exams. Somervill gave a brief background stating in '93-'94 the Council decided that the notification of passing comprehensive exams should be left up to the departments, results were not reported to the Registrar or the Graduate College. Somervill suggested a motion that would require departments to notify the Registrar regarding the pass/fail of comprehensive exams. Jackson was concerned with the turnaround time not giving the Registrar enough time to close graduation lists. Jackson will confer with the Registrar's office about how much time they need before graduation. The action was delayed.

Somervill presented his report on official graduate enrollment. Although total graduate enrollment was down .8 percent they still account for eleven percent of total University enrollment. There was, however a record number of new graduate students. Somervill is preparing a ten-year enrollment pattern for Deans, Department Heads, and Program Coordinators, and this will be used in future decisions regarding the allocation of Assistantships. This year is also a record year for minority enrollment. Somervill has had very good cooperation from other Deans to help provide support for these students after the Graduate College funds were exhausted.

There was also an increase in the amount for assistantships this fall from \$6000 to \$6240 for the Master's program and from \$9000 to \$9360 for the Doctorate program. The Provost instituted a four percent increase in the cost of living for graduate students. Hopefully, this increase will occur annually in the future.

Walker reminded Council members that the Distinguished Scholar Award committee

must include two members from the Council, one Distinguished Scholar, one Regular Graduate Faculty member, and the chair of the Graduate Faculty. Let Wallingford know if you're interested.

Walker announced that the nomination process for the Outstanding Graduate Faculty Teaching Award will now include graduate students. Smaldino suggested that part-time students also be included. Deadline for nominations is Friday, December 1, 2000.

Walker asked Council members to encourage faculty to consider nominations for the following awards: Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation, Outstanding Master's Thesis, and Outstanding Master's Paper. In addition, this is the inaugural year for the Outstanding Creative Master's Thesis Award; funding of the prize is shared by the Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts and the Graduate College. Nomination deadline is Monday, October 2, 2000.

Items to be publicized include the new officers.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Taya Ingerslev  
Secretary