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University of Northern Iowa Graduate Council Minutes, April 22, 1999

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UNI Graduate Council Minutes #887

April 22, 1999

Present: Bankston, Bozylinsky, Bruess, Chao, Doody, Durham, Gable (for Dedrick), Hanson, Jackson, Neuhaus (for Coulter), Smaldino, Somervill, Utz, Walker, Wallingford;
Visitors: Carol Cooper from HPEL

Absent: Raiklin, Sohl

Action on Minutes #885 and #886 passed with the correction of the date on minutes #886 to be April 8.

Somervill stated that the Provost approved a permanent internal allocation of \$28,000 to cover the activity fee for graduate student tuition scholarships, beginning Fall, 1999. There was the confusion that students did not realize that they were responsible for the activity fee when they were given a full tuition scholarship, this will hopefully clear up any unanswered questions and improve morale. It is a significant increase in financial benefits for students receiving tuition scholarships.

Jackson brought up the topic of non-academic suspension and probation policy. A Draft policy was passed out to Council members, and she requested that members review the draft and come up with ideas concerning the topic so it could be implemented in the fall of 1999. Jackson asked for the Council's approval for implementation of the new policy. An approved policy should be put in the University Catalog so the guidelines are adequately and appropriately known to all students and faculty. (This draft is currently under revision and feedback from the Council members is strongly encouraged). Doody stated that before the Draft is approved there should be a set figure as to what is valid for a reason for being suspended, there should be no "for example" in the text. The figure should be consistent in all departments to eliminate confusion for all those involved. Somervill stated that the biggest impact will be on professional degrees, but could involve any department. Gable asked for an example of the situation. Somervill gave the example if a student is in a counseling program and consistently shows bad judgment or violates professional ethics in his or her practicum, such as a breach of confidentiality, the department may want to consider suspension for these "non-academic" reasons. Currently, the only way a student can be put on probation or be suspended is by not obtaining a high enough gpa. The Draft is an attempt to include those non-academic items and to better document expectations.

Carol Copper from HPELS addressed the Council concerning the issue of proposed changes in the By-Laws of the Graduate Council.

Gabel/ Durham add University Committee on Committee to 2.4.1. Passed.

Doody/Utz approved 2.41 to 2.43 as amended. Passed.

Gabel/Smaldino add "voting" to 2.43. Passed.

Doody/Hanson recommend that the proposed sections 2.4.4 Duties of the GCC be

added to the Curriculum Blue Book. Passed.

Identification of Academic Year 1998-99 Unfinished business to be discussed by the 1999-2000 Council:

Doody asked about a liaison between the Graduate Council and the University Senate

Jackson raised the issue of increasing the minimum TOFEL score. She reminded members that departments could establish their own standard score above the Graduate College minimum.

Smaldino expressed concern about closely monitoring graduate faculty status, especially authorizing individuals to teach graduate courses, including workshops, on a temporary basis.

Jackson hoped to discuss the issue of time-to-degree. The traditional standard for completion of a graduate degree is seven years, but there is no policy statement in the University Catalog.

Somervill announced the availability of extensive data analysis for academic decision making. Council members should consider what type of information from this database may improve decision making.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Dunlap
Secretary