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University of Northern Iowa Graduate Council Minutes, September 10, 1998

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UNI Graduate Council Minutes #876

September 10, 1998

Present: Bankston, Bruess, Coon (for Hanson), Coulter, Dedrick, Doody, Durham, Jackson, Smaldino, Somervill, Walker

Guests: Linda Quinn (College of Education)

Minutes #875 were approved as published.

Walker reported that Distinguished Scholar Award nominations are due in the Graduate College Office by Monday, October 12. The department Graduate Faculty must initiate nominations. The Council will also need to form a committee, consisting of the Graduate Faculty Chair, two Council members, one Distinguished Scholar, and one Regular member of the Graduate Faculty, to review the nominations. The sub-committee report will be on the Graduate Council agenda on November 12. Walker also reported that the deadline for the Outstanding Master's Thesis Award, Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award, and Outstanding Master's Paper/Project Award is Monday, October 5. The Council Chair will appoint Graduate Faculty to serve on the selection committee for each award. There are 84 theses and 11 dissertations that are eligible for these awards this year.

Jackson announced that the Graduate Coordinators meeting would be held Monday, September 21 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. in the Georgian Lounge.

Somervill reported that the Graduate Student Advisory Committee, consisting of student representatives from each of the doctoral programs and masters programs in each of the five colleges, will meet and representatives to the Graduate Council will be chosen.

Somervill updated current enrollment information. As of September 10, 1998, UNI graduate programs increased by 88 students over Fall 1997. There are approximately 1540 graduate students enrolled for the 1998-99 academic year, the highest enrollment ever in the history of the university. As a result of the increase in applications, departments are becoming more selective and reaching enrollment limits. Currently, there are 230 graduate students receiving assistantships. Despite the increase in number and quality of students, there hasn't been an increase in the number of assistantships or the amount of the stipends for the last three years. Somervill stated that there is a need to present a case for additional student support based on this information. There was no report on a breakdown of full and part time enrollment at this time.

Members and visitors were welcomed by Bankston and introductions were made.

Bruess nominated Bankston for Chair of the Graduate Council. Durham seconded

nomination. There being no further nominations, a unanimous ballot was cast for Bankston. Detrick nominated Coulter for Vice Chair. Nomination was seconded by Durham. There being no further nominations, a unanimous ballot was cast for Coulter.

Bankston asked Council to identify agenda items for the year. Items to be placed on the agenda included: discussion and development of guidelines for off-campus thesis/dissertation defenses, information presented by the Graduate College Curriculum Committee, clarification of the curriculum process, clarification of the role of the Graduate Council in relation to the Faculty Senate, support for graduate student research, discussion of Departmental Suspension and Probation policies and the seven year rule on completion of masters degrees, and discussion on the number of research hours graduate students may include on their program of study.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Stejskal
Secretary