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University of Northern Iowa Graduate Council Minutes, October 9, 1997

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UNI Graduate Council Minutes #868

October 9, 1997

Present: Bankston, Bruess, Chao, Gable (for Dedrick), Hanson, Hays, Ishler (for Smaldino), Jackson, Kalkwarf, Kirmani, Osman, Raiklin, Schrage, Somervill, Thomas, Walker

Absent: Bozylinsky, Safford

Visitors: Russell Campbell (Mathematics)

Chao moved that Minutes #867 be approved with the following clarification: Recruitment funds from the Graduate College are to be used for graduate student recruitment. Gable seconded the motion. Motion passed. The same guidelines as last year will apply.

At the previous Council meeting, the question was raised as to who is ultimately responsible for reviewing and approving the Policy on Scientific Misconduct. There was discussion as to whether the proposed policy should be considered by the Faculty Senate and/or United Faculty. It was decided that the Graduate Council would act on the proposal, while acknowledging that this issue was likely to be discussed when the proposal is forwarded to the Senate.

Somervill reported that there will be a display of accomplishments of graduate students, including such items as articles, books, publications or other specific awards, located in the window display outside of the Graduate College. Somervill requested that recommendations for items to be displayed be forwarded to him via e-mail. All academic deans have been asked to share information with the department heads and graduate coordinators concerning this display.

Somervill began discussion on the 3rd Draft of the Policy on Scientific Misconduct by addressing the proposed revisions. Hanson moved to replace the original example of the Appendix: Example of "Other Practices Which Involve Scientific Misconduct"(XVI.A.) regarding gross negligent data collection or analysis with the example proposed on October 9. Hays seconded the motion, and it passed. There was additional discussion concerning the title of the policy. Somervill stated that the federal Office of Research Integrity referred to the policy as "scientific misconduct," so the same title was proposed for UNI. Osman expressed concern by a faculty member about the assumption of guilt with accusation. Somervill suggested following the model policy and changing the title to Policy for Responding to Allegations of Scientific Misconduct. Gable moved to implement this change, and Osman seconded the motion. Motion passed. The policy was approved by the Council on October 9, 1997, and Hays and Kirmani will speak on behalf of the Graduate Council at the Faculty Senate discussion of the policy.

Walker reported that committees for the Outstanding Thesis and Outstanding

Dissertation Award will be organized following the deadline for nominations. Kirmani announced the committee for Distinguished Scholar Award: Hanson and Ishler from the Graduate Council, Hays as the Graduate Faculty Chair, Thakur, Distinguished Scholar, and Das, regular member of Graduate Faculty.

Bankston began discussion on the memo from Betty DeBerg, Head of Philosophy & Religion, on dropping (g)s and prerequisites. The courses which (g)s would be removed from are courses where there is minimal graduate level enrollment, so the removal of the (g) would not be harmful to the graduate program. Secondly, the removal of the (g) would maintain sophomore enrollment numbers. Jackson stated that the Graduate College Curriculum Committee had not seen this memo, but would be willing to entertain discussion on the proposal. Gable moved to refer the memo to the Graduate College Curriculum Committee. Hanson seconded the motion and it passed.

Council began preliminary discussion on decentralization. Somervill suggested that there be some order for future discussion about decentralization, so there is input from all those who may be affected by decentralization decisions and they are able to address specific issues. Both budgetary and policy issues will need to be addressed. Osman suggested areas that are incompatible for decentralization also should be identified. Campbell mentioned two issues for discussion: Is it necessary for the Graduate College to distribute money for faculty research and travel or could this funding be decentralized. Second, if there is decentralization, will departments be willing to generate funds for more graduate assistantships that the Graduate College has been unable to fully support? Allocation of assistantships to departments for a period of time with centralized monitoring is the current practice.

On a related issue, Somervill requested that the Graduate Council address budget recommendations for the Graduate College before December. Somervill will recommend to the Provost, pending discussion of the Council, an increase of twenty assistantships, additional student travel funds, and additional faculty research funds. Kirmani asked if fundraising is an option for the Graduate College. Somervill stated the Graduate College has been unable to hire a fundraiser due to lack of resources. He has reminded academic deans to consider alumni who may be willing to provide support for graduate programs. However, these individuals are more likely to give funds to a specific graduate program in a college rather than to the Graduate College. Therefore, it is unlikely for the Graduate College itself to be successful. To facilitate future discussion, Somervill will provide a history of the budget and information concerning faculty and student travel funds and assistantship funds.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Stejskal
Secretary

Next meeting will be October 23, 1997 at 3:30 p.m. in Seerly 3.