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University of Northern Iowa Graduate Council Minutes, September 12, 1996

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UNI Graduate Council Minutes #854

September 12, 1996

Present: Bankston, Chao, Decker, Durham (for Crew), East, Kirmani, Osman, Raiklin, Safford, Somervill, Stefanich, Walker

Absent: Dedrick, Hageman, V. Jackson

Visitors: Linda Quinn (Teaching); Marvin Heller (Curriculum and Instruction); Joane McKay (College of Education)

Members and visitors were welcomed by East and asked to introduce themselves.

Durham nominated Crew for Chair of the Graduate Council. Nomination was seconded. There being no further nominations, East moved that a unanimous ballot be cast for Crew. Motion was seconded and passed.

Kirmani nominated East for Vice-Chair. Nomination was seconded. There being no further nominations, a unanimous ballot was cast for East.

Decker moved that Minutes #853 be approved as published. Motion was seconded and passed.

Dean Somervill welcomed the new members to the Council. There has been a \$10,000 increase in the faculty research and travel account and a \$5,000 increase in the graduate student travel account. However, there was no increase in either the amount or number of Graduate Assistant stipends or the number of tuition scholarships. Somervill said that he was concerned about the decrease in graduate enrollment and hoped to provide limited financial assistance to departments in their recruitment efforts. He said that most of the enrollment decline appeared to be in non-degree and part-time students. He should have more information available at the next meeting. He reported that both Iowa and Iowa State have a slight enrollment increase. He would like to have a task force appointed to evaluate enrollment, looking at the assistantship system and the possibility of variable stipends. He would also like to have the enhanced programs report on their progress and recruitment efforts as a result of the increased support they have received.

Walker reminded members of the October 1 PDL deadline, reporting that four announcements had been sent to faculty. He said that the Graduate College is again hosting a lunch for new tenure and pre-tenure faculty later this month and reported that there will be a grant and scholarship writing workshop next Thursday. Distinguished Scholar Award announcements have been distributed, with an October 14 deadline for nominations. This award will be discussed at the November 14 Council meeting. He reminded everyone that the nominations start with the Graduate Faculty in each

department. He also reported that Outstanding Thesis and Dissertation Award announcements have been distributed, with an October 11 deadline for nominations. A letter has also been sent to the advisor for each thesis/dissertation written during the applicable time. These awards will be discussed at the November 14 meeting.

Somervill reported that he met twice with the committee looking at the Graduate College strategic plan (Stefanich, Ishler, Crew and East). They have identified major goals and a subset of strategies for achieving each of the goals. He asked that Council members review the document and contact committee members with input and comments. He has a goal of completing the document by December. Stefanich asked if there is a record kept of persons with disabilities. Somervill said that they are self-identified, so if that information is known it would be at the department level, not by the Graduate College Office. There is a confidentiality issue involved. East said that the committee tried to have strategies for reaching each of the goals it identified. Kirmani suggested expanding one of the goals to include all research on campus, both undergraduate and graduate. Somervill said that he wanted the Graduate College plan tied to the University plan, so first we must focus on graduate research and then on undergraduate research, which is already being supported. Chao suggested replacing "minority" with "under-represented." Kirmani asked if it would be feasible for the Graduate College to have a Foundation account and do fundraising for graduate endeavors. Somervill said that it may be possible, but the Foundation does not encourage individual units to do that unless there is close coordination with the Office of Development.

Somervill said that the policy on low-enrollment courses affected graduate student enrollment in that some 100g courses had already been cancelled when graduate students tried to enroll in them. He is not sure how widespread the problem is, but apparently it did affect later graduate enrollment in at least one course.

It was reported that Graduate College Curriculum Committee member terms are for two years. Approximately one-half of the committee is to be replaced each year (3 colleges one year and the other 2 colleges the next). The problem has been that recently members have only served for one year and so there have not been any carry-over terms. There will be further discussion when Carolyn Shields presents her curriculum report.

The scheduling of reports from the enhanced programs early in the year will be discussed at the next meeting.

Kirmani asked if there was interest in holding a graduate research day this year? Somervill asked if Kirmani would propose recommendations for that. Osman said that he would be willing to help, as did Bankston. If anyone else is interested, contact Kirmani.

Stefanich said that a possible speaker for the next Graduate Faculty meeting would be Vice-President Marlin discussing decentralization as it relates to graduate programs.

Stefanich moved to adjourn. Motion was seconded and passed. Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Hesse
Secretary

Next meeting will be September 26, 1996 at 3:30 p.m. in Seerley 3