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University of Northern Iowa Graduate Council Minutes, March 14, 1996

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UNI Graduate Council Minutes #850

March 14, 1996

Present: Chao, Crew, Decker, Dungan, East, Fahmy, Hageman, V. Jackson, Quirk, Raiklin, Safford, Shields, Somervill, Traw (for Stefanich), Walker, Yohe

Absent: Ishler, Meeker

Visitors: Susann Doody (College of Education); Virginia Berg (Biology); Greg Bruess (History)

Minutes #848 were approved as published.

Somervill said that he was still making revisions to the Graduate Assistantship document. He said that he has been giving some thought to not seeking an increase in the amount of the stipend for next year, since a relatively modest individual increase would cost quite a bit university-wide, and then asking if those funds could be put into the student travel account instead. Fahmy asked if not increasing the stipend would hurt us in the long run. Somervill said that he was going to do a comparison with the benchmark institutions, but in the past our stipends have been above the median.

Crew said that there had been confusion as to the role of the Graduate Council and the Graduate College Curriculum Committee in the curricular process regarding what needs to be done when and by whom. He said that curriculum needs to go to the Senate next week for docketing for their March meeting.

Chao distributed proposed catalog language changes needed for the additional research hours approved on the MS program. Chao moved to accept Item #2. Motion was seconded. East suggested striking the second sentence and changing "may" to "will" as friendly amendments. Motion passed as amended. Paragraph #3 on p. 105 should now read: "The total number of credit hours of research permitted for thesis work will vary with the program."

Chao moved to accept Item #1. Motion was seconded. Jackson suggested leaving the general statement as is and including the revisions under the MS program. Shields said it needed to be made clearer under the core requirements. Jackson suggested deferring to the Registrar for the wording and placement, but it was decided that the Council needed to determine them. East suggested removing research from #1 on p. 104. After more discussion, Shields moved to amend Item #1 so that on p. 104 under thesis plan it should read "A minimum of 30 semester hours of graduate credit is required. For the MS, a minimum of 21 hours must be in coursework. For the MA, MAE, and MM, a minimum of 24 hours must be in coursework. The remainder of the 30 hours will be xxx:299 thesis research credit." Amendment was seconded and passed. Motion as amended passed.

Chao moved to accept Item #3. Motion was seconded and passed. On p. 106, under Summary of Hour Requirements, revise to read "** include 6 to 9 hours for research depending on the program."

Chao moved to accept the second revision of Item #4. Motion was seconded and passed. On page 129, replace #4 with: "Residence Credit. Following admission to the Doctor of Education program, the student shall be enrolled for a minimum of 18 semester hours of study which may be distributed across two, three, or four terms. At least two residence terms and no less than 12 semester hours of work must be on campus study. Credit hour requirements must be fulfilled by enrollments in regularly scheduled classes. Independent study (e.g., readings, practica, research) will not qualify for residence credit."

Chao moved to accept and transmit to the University Faculty Senate the graduate curricular changes proposed by the College of Business Administration, as amended by the Graduate College Curriculum Committee. Motion was seconded. Fahmy questioned removing "consent of instructor" as a prerequisite from 920:160g. East said that the Committee felt that students in the course should be at least juniors. Somervill said that revising the prerequisite wording was essentially a policy change. After discussion, Shields moved to remove the Economics curricular changes from the package. Motion was not seconded as it was felt the department should not be penalized for Committee actions. Shields said that Council policy for 100g courses has been to have "junior standing or consent of instructor" as a prerequisite. Somervill said if the Committee changed the prerequisite for all departments, whether they wanted it or not, then they have changed the policy. The Committee should have dealt with items as they came from the departments. Fahmy noted that as a department head he was not requested to attend the Graduate College Curriculum Committee meeting when curriculum from Industrial Technology was considered and questioned whether there was consultation with any department. Somervill said that it appeared that there was a lack of clarity of what was expected of the Committee. Shields said that the "or consent of instructor" could be left in so that no action would be taken on the courses involved. Somervill said that the Council could debate the issue next year in the off year of the curricular cycle to decide whether or not to drop this required prerequisite. Chao withdrew his motion concerning the College of Business Administration curriculum. Shields moved to reinstate "junior standing or consent of instructor" for every course where it was changed. Motion was seconded and passed. Crew will write to department heads informing them of this. Shields said that the Council needs to know exactly what changes were made in departmental curriculum before approving the changes.

Due to the time, it was decided to meet next week to deal with the curriculum materials and to invite department heads and graduate coordinators to attend.

Fahmy moved to adjourn. Motion was seconded and passed. Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Hesse
Secretary

Next meeting will be February 29, 1996 at 3:30 p.m. in Seerley 3