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University of Northern Iowa Graduate Council Minutes, November 10, 1994

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UNI Graduate Council Minutes #835

November 10, 1994

Present: Colburn (for Lew), Crew, Das, Decker, Durham, East, Fahmy, Heller (for Ishler), Hill (for Clohesy), V. Jackson, Quirk, Safford, Somervill, Walker

Absent: Chao, Yohe

Minutes #834 were approved as published.

Somervill noted that the update on the Graduate College Strategic Plan is due December 1 and said that its focus will be on special recruitment efforts, international recruitment, and the three enhanced programs. He said that he will be contacting the graduate coordinators regarding their plans for student outcome assessments. He reported that a University Strategic Planning Committee has been appointed to represent all segments of the University and said that the Council needs to appoint a representative to be on the Academic Strategic Planning Committee.

Jackson said that the Registrar's Office has asked that the Council review graduate residency requirements and noted that Phil Patton would like to be present for the discussion.

Walker reported that there were 83 faculty who applied for a Summer Fellowship. He said that there were funds for the equivalent of 25 8-week fellowships.

Quirk nominated Durham, as the highest elected official of the Graduate Faculty, to be the Council's representative to the Academic Strategic Planning Committee. Motion was seconded. Quirk moved that nominations cease and that a unanimous ballot be cast for Durham. Motion was seconded and passed.

Somervill reported that between the three schools visited there were 115 New Orleans students who expressed an interest in seeking admission to graduate study at UNI. Information sheets on these students have been sent to the academic deans. Due to the high level of interest, we will not have enough assistantship funds to cover all minority applicants who may be accepted into degree programs. This will also mean that we will not be able to expand recruitment efforts. Recruitment efforts in New Orleans have been very successful but have resulted in a resource problem. Quirk asked if consideration has been given to prioritizing minority support within the University, eg. women and area of study. Somervill said that currently it is a collaborative effort between the deans and the Graduate College. Jackson said that we have tried targeting with an external grant application where ten departments were asked to participate in an application for Patricia Roberts Harris funds.

Fahmy reported that the Outstanding Thesis Award will be given to Eric Juhnke, a

history student, and his thesis will be submitted to the Midwest Association of Graduate Schools for its competition. Second place was awarded to Stephen Walk from Mathematics. Quirk noted that there were only four papers submitted and wondered if this meant that students were not writing good theses or if advisors were not submitting them for consideration. He also wondered if a department could submit more than one thesis and if thought had been given to having an award for an artistic or creative work. Somervill replied that more than one paper could be submitted from a department and that an artistic/creative award would be considered. East suggested having a directed mailing to thesis advisors to help increase the number of papers submitted.

Crew moved to go to executive session to discuss the Distinguished Scholar Award recommendation. Motion was seconded and passed. Quirk moved to rise from executive session. Durham moved to accept the recommendation of the Committee that Virginia Berg be given the 1995-96 Distinguished Scholar Award. Motion was seconded and passed. Fahmy thanked the Committee and Walker for their efforts.

Somervill said that if anyone on the Council would like to serve on the Strategic Planning Committee to contact Fahmy or him.

Quirk wondered if there was any interest expressed from Moscow Linguistic University in expanding the number of students coming here. Somervill said that there will be 20 students in the spring and 27 for next fall.

Items to be publicized include the Distinguished Scholar Award, the Outstanding Thesis Award, and the representative on the Strategic Planning Committee.

Durham moved to adjourn. Motion was seconded and passed. Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Hesse
Secretary

Next meeting will be December 8 at 3:30 p.m. in Seerley 3