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University of Northern Iowa Graduate Council Minutes, February 24, 1994

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UNI Graduate Council Minutes #828

February 24, 1994

Present: Chao, Crew, Decker, Durham, East (for Kirmani), Gaies, Huddleston, V. Jackson, Lew, Rose (for Safford), Simet, Somervill, Walker

Absent: MacArthur, R. Martin, Yohe

Visitors: E. A. Dennis (Industrial Technology); George Glenn (Theatre); Jon Hall (Communication Studies); Jim Bodensteiner, Kent Johnson (Continuing Education and Special Programs)

Minutes #827 were approved as published.

Somervill said that due to the split of Communication and Theatre Arts into two departments, Theatre and Communication Studies share one master's degree. Communication Studies put through curricular changes earlier. Theatre's program has been approved by the CHFA Senate. The current catalog statement reflects what the Theatre program will be, with minor wording and course numbering changes. Somervill is asking Council approval to send the changes to the Board of Regents as a split of the original master's program between the two departments, rather than as a restatement of the major and a new program. He said that both Iowa and Iowa State viewed the proposals as a split and would not oppose the programs. East moved to approve the division of the Communication and Theatre Arts major into two separate programs. Motion was seconded and passed. Jackson will contact Diane Wallace regarding this. Theatre will be restating their major during the curricular flow next fall.

Somervill distributed copies of a talk given at the Council of Graduate Schools meeting regarding the remote delivery of graduate coursework and programs. He said he is concerned about offering entire programs through interactive video without some discussion of the residency requirement. The suggestion was made to limit the number of courses offered, but it was questioned how this would be monitored if there were also on-campus students in the course. Somervill noted that this is one of the issues which need to be discussed. He said that the three people who taught on the system this fall felt that it should not be the sole means of offering a program. Bodensteiner said that most people considering offering programs on the system are wanting at least one summer of on-campus courses as part of the program. They will offer the library-intensive courses during that time. Somervill said that he feels that there should be some on-campus component required. Decker said that the Sioux City program is working very well, with UNI faculty flying out to meet with the students every Monday evening, and an on-campus requirement would be hard for these people. Somervill said that the Sioux City program is a different type of experience. Since it is not being offered through interactive video, it would not be affected. East suggested creating an additional limitation for interactive video programs rather than changing the residency definition.

Decker moved to create a committee to consider recommendations and guidelines for programs offered through interactive video and report later this year. Motion was seconded and passed. Gaies said that he would serve. Simet said he would get someone from Continuing Education, College of Education, and a user of the system to also serve. Huddleston said that she would like to see a restatement of residency to include "UNI graduate faculty" rather than "UNI faculty."

Durham announced that there will be a Graduate Faculty meeting on April 14, 1994 at 3:30 p.m. in Seerley 115. The deans of the College of Education and College of Natural Sciences will present their perspectives regarding the way the doctoral programs are progressing.

Simet reported that a letter regarding the premier programs went out today to the Graduate Coordinator of each program which applied. The programs chosen were Communication Studies, Communicative Disorders, and English. Most programs not chosen were still considered to be very good programs.

Simet said that the evaluation forms for Somervill have been distributed. He encourages everyone to complete and return it as soon as possible.

Walker announced that the Graduate College reception honoring faculty who have applied for external grants, the Outstanding Masters Thesis awardees, UNI Distinguished Scholars, and Professional Development Leave and Summer Fellowship awardees will be May 5, 1994 from 3:30 to 5:00 in the Seerley Reading Room.

Somervill encouraged all Council members and Graduate Faculty members to attend the doctoral defenses in the Reading Room. The auditory and lighting problems are being addressed.

Simet said that he had received a letter regarding the lack of a formal process for nominating someone for the Distinguished Scholar award. Walker will review the guidelines and Simet will talk with the letter writer to determine where the problem is--if the guidelines need to be changed or if they were not implemented properly.

Items to be publicized include the Graduate Faculty meeting.

Durham moved to adjourn. Motion was seconded and passed. Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Hesse
Secretary

Next meeting will be March 10 at 3:30 p.m. in Seerley 3