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University of Northern Iowa Graduate Council Minutes, October 28, 1993

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UNI Graduate Council Minutes #822

October 28, 1993

Present: Chao, Crew, Durham, East (for Kirmani), Gaies, Huddleston, Jakubowski (for MacArthur), Lew, R. Martin, Safford, Simet, Walker

Absent: Decker, V. Jackson, Somervill, Yohe

Minutes #821 were approved as published.

Walker reported that Somervill and Jackson were on a recruiting trip in New Orleans. Walker said that there had been five nominations received for the Distinguished Scholar Award. The committee is currently looking at credentials and will bring their recommendation to the next meeting.

Gaies said that members of his department had asked him to clarify the policy and procedures for designating a program for enhancement, noting that they had not seen where any had been formally approved by any faculty group. He also said that members of his department were concerned that programs within a department were competing against each other since it was graduate programs which were being looked at for enhancement, not departments. They had also expressed concern that this was a bad time of the year for having to produce the requested documents. Simet replied that Somervill had announced the process at the last Graduate Council meeting. Durham noted that the enhanced funding does not come from the Graduate Council but from the Graduate College, therefore the means of determining which programs to enhance is entirely within the auspices of the Graduate College. Gaies questioned whether this wasn't a legitimate area for faculty input and approval. Durham said that concerns had been expressed about possible negative consequences for programs not applying, but there will be none. Simet said that the information needed to be gathered and a decision made this semester so that the additional assistantships for next year could be awarded next semester. The time frame was tight but shouldn't be too restrictive.

Safford said that the Council might want to request a copy of the final Strategic Plan report which goes to the Regents, noting that last year there was some question whether what was forwarded to the Regents was what had been submitted by the various areas. Simet said that he would request a copy of the final report.

East reported that he had a couple of responses regarding multiple levels of Graduate Faculty. One person was upset but had no constructive criticism, another suggested that instead of having levels, have the Graduate Faculty be recertified periodically. Simet noted that this issue will not be decided by the Graduate Council. It would require a change in the Graduate Faculty Constitution, so the Council will only decide whether or not to bring the issue to the Graduate Faculty. Further discussion was tabled to the next meeting so that Somervill could be present.

Simet announced that the committee had made a selection for the outstanding masters thesis award, which will be submitted for the MAGS competition. The committee will now review submitted dissertations for the outstanding dissertation award. He thanked Durham and Huddleston for their time and efforts.

Simet reported that seven faculty leaders from UNI (Senate Chair and Vice Chair, Graduate Faculty Chair, Faculty Chair, Graduate Council Chair and Vice Chair, and Strategic Planning Committee Chair) had attended a meeting at Iowa State with their counterparts from Iowa and Iowa State. Items which were discussed included the sexually explicit materials policy issue, productivity and strategic planning process, faculty evaluation and advancement, communication between the Senate and administration, and building collegiality and faculty morale. There will be another meeting in the spring. Contact Simet or Durham if you have items for the agenda. Simet said that it was a valuable experience, noting that it was good to hear that some of the things we are experiencing they are experiencing as well, to discuss how they are dealing with these, and to get other perspectives.

Items to publicize include the spring meeting between the three campuses.

Durham moved to adjourn. Motion was seconded and passed. Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Hesse
Secretary

Next meeting will be November 11 at 3:30 p.m. in 3 Seerley