

12-10-1992

University of Northern Iowa Graduate Council Minutes, December 10, 1992

University of Northern Iowa

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UNI Graduate Council Minutes #813

December 10, 1992

Present: Durham, Fahmy, Gaies, Huddleston, V. Jackson, D. Johnson (for S. Smaldino), Lew, MacArthur, Maier, R. Martin, Safford, Simet, Somervill, Walker

Absent: Chao, Yohe

Visitors: Nancy Marlin (Vice President and Provost); Susann Doody (College of Education); John Fecik (Industrial Technology)

Minutes #812 were approved as published.

Somervill announced that the Board of Regents has decided to discontinue the MPhil degree due to low enrollment. He will review low enrollment programs and meet with their dean, department head and faculty this spring. He said that we can expect a continuation of requests from the Board for policy information with short turn around time. He will try to get information out to the Council as quickly as possible. Somervill reported that almost all programs have responded to his request for admission requirements. He plans to have these compiled by the next meeting.

Walker said that PDL letters will go out this afternoon. There were 36 applicants, 19 of which will be recommended to the Board. There were 70 Summer Fellowship applicants with 29 faculty being supported. Those letters will go out Monday. Letters concerning recipients of the Outstanding Masters Thesis Award will go out shortly, even though the Outstanding Dissertation Award has not yet been determined.

Maier gave a short background on her proposal concerning the Graduate Assistant evaluation process. The purpose is to have every department formulate some kind of procedures. Departments can determine what best fits their programs, rather than having all departments use the same procedures. There are two proposals involving the evaluation process: (1) faculty evaluation of the graduate assistant, and (2) graduate assistant evaluation of the assistantship. When asked what protection students have if they criticize the assistantship, Somervill said that the graduate assistant grievance procedures could be used. Maier moved adoption of the first proposal. Motion was seconded and passed. Maier moved adoption of the second proposal. Motion was seconded. Some felt that this evaluation could be a standardized form that is returned to the Graduate College, but others thought the departments should have feedback. Huddleston asked that the date be moved back, but it was decided that the date is a workable one. Motion passed. It was noted that these policies do not prevent the Graduate College from doing its own survey of graduate assistants. Text of the policies follows:

All departments with graduate assistants should adopt a policy and procedure for producing a written evaluation or measurement of the performance of their graduate assistants at least once per semester. A copy of the policy should be forwarded to the Graduate Dean and the Chair of the Graduate Council by February 15, 1993.

All departments with graduate assistants should also adopt a procedure for receiving a written evaluation or measurement by their graduate assistants of the GA experience at least once per semester. A copy of the policy should also be forwarded to the Graduate Dean and the Chair of the Council by February 15, 1993.

Somervill discussed the memo from John Tarr concerning Summer Tuition Scholarships for courses offered through Continuing Education. He said that Graduate College tuition funds come from the general fund and must be returned to the general fund, not to Continuing Education. Also summer tuition is paid from next year's budget, so funding is limited and there has to be restrictions placed on the courses which will be funded.

There is also the precedence that extension courses have never been supported.

Doody said that she felt the issue was whether or not the course met the intent of the tuition scholarship, and if so it should be funded no matter where it is offered. Somervill said that due to the limited amount of funds, not every eligible student gets supported. He said that he is not going to blur the distinction between extension and regular courses by giving tuition support for extension courses, particularly since tuition scholarships have never been given for extension courses.

Fahmy said that he was still very concerned that the Graduate Faculty Chair does not receive the same recognition given to the Faculty Chair.

Items to publicize include the Outstanding Masters Thesis Award.

MacArthur 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 January 28 at 3:30 p.m. in Gilchrist Board Room.