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University of Northern Iowa Graduate Council Minutes, April 23, 1992

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UNI Graduate Council Minutes #807

April 23, 1992

Present: Berg, Clayson, Durham, Fahmy, V. Jackson, Jones, Lew, Maier, R. Martin, S. Smaldino, Swensen, Walker

Absent: Mills, Safford, Somerville, Yohe

Visitors: Nancy Marlin (Vice President and Provost); Philip Suckling (Geography)

Minutes #806 were approved as published.

Walker reminded Council members of the reception honoring faculty who have applied for external grants or received PDLs, Summer Fellowships or other internal awards on Thursday, April 30, at 3:30 p.m. in the Georgian Lounge. The students receiving the UNI Outstanding Thesis Awards will also be honored.

Durham distributed the MPhil report. He said that there has been one student graduate from the program, another student who will be graduating this summer, two other students currently in the program, and a new applicant who will be evaluated at the next committee meeting. Berg moved to accept the report. Motion was seconded and passed.

Fahmy invited Philip Suckling, Geography department head, to share information on the Geography graduate program. Suckling said that currently there are four full-time students and one part-time student enrolled. The department is anticipating between two and four new admissions by fall. Two of the current full-time students will graduate this summer and are going on to PhD programs. The other two will continue here next year. He has formed an ad hoc departmental committee to evaluate and make recommendations for their graduate program. They are considering, among other things, a core of 200-level courses and are looking at both thesis and non-thesis options. They plan to have a two-year cycle for 100g courses. Their students tend to be non-traditional and generally find jobs in the environmental or mapping fields. The department has gone through a major curricular revision. At the present there is no recruiting program, however, the department plans to begin recruiting once the program is more structured. Fahmy thanked Suckling for coming to speak with the Council.

Smaldino said that she thought the Council should take a position on tuition for summer Continuing Education courses since some regular summer courses had to be moved to Continuing Education for funding purposes. She has had to advise some students to take courses out of sequence because they were the only courses which could be taken and still receive tuition support. She said she felt the Dean should take a second look at the issue since it is hurting students. Fahmy said that he has also had this problem in his department. Maier said that she felt that the Dean was not deliberately trying to hurt students but this was part of a larger problem. Jackson said that she would check with

departments to see how much of a problem this was and will discuss specific students with the Dean. After discussion it was decided to have the minutes reflect concern about summer offerings for graduate programs and ask the Graduate Dean to review the policy and take into consideration situations which impose hardships on students.

Fahmy extended his thanks to Council members for their efforts during the year. He asked that returning members consider which committees they would like to serve on next year, which will be discussed at the first meeting in the fall.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Hesse
Secretary