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University of Northern Iowa Graduate Council Minutes, October 27, 2016

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UNI Graduate College Minutes #1059

UNI Graduate Council Meeting

October 27, 2016

Present: Al-Mabuk, Beall, Berendzen, Calderon, Cutter, Dhanwada, Edmister, Fontana, Igou, Juby, Ostapyuk, Pohl, Rod-Welch, and Teske

Absent: Isakson, Ross, Schwieger.

Chair Pohl called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

There was a motion to approve the minutes of the Oct 13 meeting. The motion passed.

Graduate College Reports:

Reports from **Schwieger**:

- Thinking About Graduate School: Handouts, presentations, and additional resources are posted on the Graduate College website and will be sent to students on the TAGS mailing list.
- UNI Grad Student News: October issue available on Monday, October 31. The submission deadline for the November issue is November 15.
- Professional Development for November: Resume Writing for Graduate Students, Monday, November 7, noon-12:50 in the Presidential Room, Susie is the presenter.
- UNI Virtual Tour: Graduate College will have a one minute segment along with other multiple offices/departments. Anticipated launch date is April 2017.
- Vinyl Fridays: Graduate College is collaborating with Rod Library to promote Vinyl Fridays, November 4 and December 2 to the Graduate Community.
- Graduate Student Social Mixer: Tentatively scheduled for Thursday, January 19, Rod Library
- 10th Annual Graduate Student Symposium, Tuesday, April 4, 2017: Poster, oral and creative performances will be featured. Registration will open in early December.

Cutter informed the Graduate Council of the upcoming award competitions and their deadlines. The nomination deadline for the James Lubker Award is November 4th. The nomination deadline for the Graduate College Distinguished Scholar Award and the Outstanding Graduate Faculty Teaching Award are both December 9th. She informed everyone that candidates for the Distinguished Scholar Award can be nominated by any regular member of the graduate faculty and that candidates for the Outstanding Graduate Faculty Teaching Award are nominated by members of the regular graduate faculty or a UNI graduate student. The details can be found on the Graduate College website.

Dhanwada reported that the Presidential Search Committee met on October 26th for over 5 hours to narrow the pool of 46 candidates who applied for the position to 6-8 candidates. The list was shortened to 7 candidates; these candidates will be invited for off-site interviews on November 11-12, 2016. From that pool there will be 3 or 4 candidates selected for on-campus visits the week after Thanksgiving. The Board of Regents will interview the final pool of candidates on December 6 and then announce the individual selected for the position.

Pohl announced that the next Brown Bag Seminar is at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 1 in the Presidential Room. The speaker is Melissa Beall who received the Distinguished Scholar Award two years ago. Everyone is encouraged to attend. Pohl also mentioned that Faculty Chair Tim Kidd is seeking nominations for the Regents Award for Faculty Excellence, a member of the Graduate Council is expected to serve on the Award Selection Committee. Al-Mabuk volunteered to serve on the committee.

New Business:

Work continued on the Graduate College Strategic Plan. Chair **Pohl** asked what the best way was to proceed to develop a new strategic plan for 2017-2022. After feedback from GC members, it was decided that the Graduate Council would begin a framework to bring forward to graduate faculty for further feedback and revisions instead of having meetings with all graduate faculty to develop the new plan. Chair **Pohl** suggested that the GC move forward with looking at the current plan as a start and continue the work that was done last time on the mission and vision for the plan.

Discussion occurred on the Mission and Values draft statements for UNI's Graduate College Strategic Plan. The draft statements were previously distributed to the members of the Graduate Council. Chair **Pohl** asked if there was any need for revisions to these statements. She reminded the Council members that it would be good if the Graduate College mission and values could align with the Academic Master Plan and the University Strategic Plan. Since the Graduate College Strategic Plan is set to be revised soon, the revision of the Graduate College mission and values statements should be the first step toward that work.

Discussion occurred on the values statements. The members of the Graduate Council provided suggestions, clarifications on these statements to better fit with graduate education and the needs of graduate students and faculty. There was agreement on six values. These draft statements will be revised as the progress moves forward.

The discussion then moved to the Graduate College Mission statement. The following revised statement was the **latest** draft agreed upon by the members of the Graduate Council:

“Graduate education at the University of Northern Iowa fosters individualized student inquiry through high quality research and practitioner programs in an inclusive community that cultivate life-long learning and engagement”.

Additional discussion occurred on how to address goals of the Graduate College. Members of the Graduate Council thought it would be important to ask for input from the graduate faculty. First, GC members would look at the current goals and see how they can be revised to fit today. It was decided that the group work electronically on this documents as we would not meet till December.

Discussion occurred on the Vision statement of the Graduate Education Strategic Plans. The members of the Graduate Council advised that the statement portrays the Graduate College accurately. The statement is as follows:

“Graduate Education at the University of Northern Iowa will be a premier choice for students desiring a world-class education in a personalized graduate environment”.

Meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be on Dec 8, at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rubina Chowdhury
Secretary