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University of Northern Iowa Graduate Council Minutes, January 12, 2017

Graduate Council, University of Northern Iowa.

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Graduate Council Minutes #1061

Graduate Council Meeting

January 12, 2017

Present: Beall, Berendzen, Calderon, Cutter, Dhanwada, Edmister, Ellison, Fontana, Igou, Juby, Ostapyuk, Pohl, and Rod-Welch.

Absent: Dhanwada, 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 Dec 8 meeting. The motion passed.

Graduate College Reports:

Cutter announced that the Graduate Student Social Mixer is on Thursday, January 19 from 4-6 p.m., to be held in Room 287 of the Rod Library. Snacks will be provided. Both students and faculty are encouraged to attend.

Two workshops are coming up for graduate students in January:

- On Monday, January 23 (1:00-1:50 p.m.), **Dhanwada** will conduct one on preparing and presenting posters for conferences for all disciplines.
- On Tuesday, January 31 (2:00– 2:50 p.m.), **Cutter** will conduct a second session on preparing oral presentation for conferences.
- Both events will take place in Rod Library, room 287.
- These workshops will be particularly beneficial to those graduate students who are planning to present their research findings at the upcoming 10th Annual Graduate Student Symposium on April 4.

Workshop in February:

- February 7 on the topic of information literacy. The event will cover everything, the graduate students need to know before they start a research project.
- The session is scheduled twice that day in Rod Library
 - 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.
 - 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

The deadline for submitting a thesis to the Graduate College has been extended from March 23 to March 31 this year. This is to give students more time to defend their thesis and work with their committees over revisions and acceptance.

Pohl distributed Graduate Brown Bag lecture schedule to the Council. Generally two seminars are scheduled every month. The upcoming seminar is on January 30. The members of the Graduate Council were encouraged to publicize the events to their respective Departments and Colleges. Pohl also reminded everyone that on March 21 she plans to gather all graduate faculty at UNI to talk about Committee's recent work on Mission, Vision, Goals and the Graduate Strategic Planning. The meeting is to get faculty consent on these documents and get approval by the end of the semester.

New Business:

Discussion occurred on the strategic goals of the Graduate College Strategic Plan. A slightly revised version of the current document was distributed to the Graduate Council for further discussions. Important insights were brought into the discussion to define a set of goals that are more compatible with the existing curriculum. The Council members were of the opinion that actively promoting graduate programs, ensuring their growth, and accurately defining the stakeholders should be integral parts of the College's long term goals. It is the role of the Graduate College to present the value of graduate education to the internal and the external constituencies. It is important that the message promote the value of graduate programs and to make sure it is not diluted or lessened with promoting undergraduate programs. So, it becomes very important to target both the internal and external stakeholders and conduct rigorous promotion, advertisement and announcement of our programs locally as well as globally.

After a considerable amount of discussion, the following sets of goals were defined by the Graduate Council for further analysis:

Goal 1: To support, sustain and enhance the academic quality and rigor of UNI's graduate programs.

Goal 2: To create innovative, inclusive and diverse, interdisciplinary, academic, applied and professional graduate programs that meet emerging demands of society.

Goal 3: To ensure that graduate education at UNI continually identifies and meets the needs of the larger community at the local, state, national and international levels by offering relevant graduate programs.

Goal 4: To ensure that resources are obtained and made available to support, sustain and enhance graduate programs.

Goal 5: To promote UNI's graduate programs to all internal and external stakeholders.

Pohl mentioned that the next task is to propose multiples objectives under each goal. Everyone was asked to work on the objectives currently in place and offer revisions. Opinions could be shared through google docs or by sending them to Chair Pohl. Every effort will be made to finish the entire strategic planning document by the middle of February. The document will then be sent out to the graduate faculty for their comments. It would be the expectation of the Graduate Council to complete the final version by the end of March.

Meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be on January 26, at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rubina Chowdhury
Secretary