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University of Northern Iowa Graduate Council Minutes, January 26, 2017

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UNI Graduate Council Minutes #1062

UNI Graduate Council Meeting

January 26, 2017

Present: Beall, Berendzen, Calderon, Cutter, Dhanwada, Edmister, Igou, Al-Mabuk, and Rod-Welch.

Absent: Ellison, Fontana, Isakson, Juby, Ostapyuk, Pohl, Ross, and Schwieger.

Graduate Council ViceChair Beall called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

There was a motion to approve the minutes of the January 12 meeting. The motion passed.

Graduate College Reports:

Dhanwada reported that she is working with the Office of Admissions and University Relations in a centralized effort to increase graduate student recruitment. Names were purchased of prospective students who took GRE and are intending to go to graduate school in fall of 2017. These students had at least 3.0 GPA and are primarily interested in attending graduate school in the Midwest. Graduate College has reached out to them by sending these students a series of email communications and marketing brochure describing UNI's programs.

The first email was sent on **Monday, January 23**. Additional emails will be sent out with more information about the graduate programs.

In coming years, these communications will be sent in the Fall semester. However, there is an expectation that this campaign will reach out to prospective students and improve recruitment. The Graduate College has received funds from the Provost's Office for this effort.

Additionally, a visit day for the admitted students is being planned. The proposed date is for **Friday, March 31st**. The hope is to bring students to campus prior to the **April 15** deadline for students to accept their admission. The visit will allow students to see more of our facilities and resources and meet with faculty and students before they make their final decision. Dhanwada noted that several initiatives are being done at the Graduate College level to boost recruitment to improve numbers of graduate students.

Cutter announced some upcoming events for the Graduate College:

- **The 10th Annual Graduate Student Symposium is on Tuesday, April 4** and the registration is now open. The symposium will start at **9:00 a.m.** There will be welcome speech by the new President, **Mark Nook**, followed by an alumni panel to talk about graduate education at UNI. There will be poster and oral presentations and the members of the Graduate Council as well as graduate faculty across

campus will be asked to participate as judges for the student awards.

- **Cutter** will conduct a session on preparing oral presentation for conferences on **Tuesday, January 31 from 2:00 – 2:50 p.m. in Rod Library, room 287.** Both students and faculty are encouraged to attend.
- The **Graduate Student Social Mixer on January 19:** Although the weather was not very helpful, there were 27 students and 13 faculty members who attended the event.

Beall reminded everyone of the upcoming **Brown Bag Seminar on Monday, January 30** from 12:00 – 12:50 p.m. in Rod Library, room 287. The speaker, **Dr. Jeremy Schraffenberger**, will discuss about the North American Review.

New Business:

Discussion occurred on Strategic Objectives of the Graduate College Strategic Plan. **Beall** thanked everyone who submitted objectives for the draft for this meeting. The goal is to complete a draft copy of the entire document by **Tuesday, March 21** when members of the UNI faculty will be invited to a meeting to review the document and offer comments.

After a considerable amount of discussion, the following draft objectives were agreed upon by the Graduate Council:

Goals and Objectives

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

- Objective 1: To establish and maintain Student Outcomes Assessments for all graduate Programs.
- Objective 2: To increase the opportunities for all graduate students to conduct research and creative activity with the guidance and support of faculty.
- Objective 3: To regularly offer professional development workshops for graduate students.
- Objective 4: To provide and support opportunities for all graduate faculty to present research on campus.

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

- Objective 1: To foster development of interdisciplinary graduate programs and/or certificates.
- Objective 2: To facilitate collaboration between graduate programs and community-based organizations.

- Objective 3: To foster the engagement of graduate faculty and students in community outreach.
- Objective 4: To work with the UNI Foundation to develop fellowships and scholarships to recruit a diverse and inclusive student body.

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

- Objective 1: To assess current workforce trends and support graduate programs in their efforts to respond to those trends.
- Objective 2: To enhance the responsiveness of graduate education to the needs of the larger community.
- Objective 3: To ensure that resources are obtained and made available to support, sustain and enhance graduate programs.

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

- Objectives 1: To seek funding through internal and external partnerships to support academic quality for graduate programs.
- Objective 2: To encourage recruitment and retention of a diverse faculty dedicated to graduate education.
- Objective 3: To work with the Office of Sponsored Programs to support graduate faculty in their efforts to obtain grant funding.
- Objective 4: To work with UNI Advancement to increase the number of Graduate assistantships and tuition scholarships available to graduate students.
- Objective 5: To work with the Office of Sponsored Programs and with faculty to increase the availability of external funding to support graduate students.

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

- Objective 1: To collect graduate program activities that can be shared with stakeholders.
- Objective 2: To promote graduate student achievements to the University community as well as prospective students.
- Objective 3: To promote UNI graduate programs regionally, nationally and internationally.

Meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be on February 9, at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rubina Chowdhury
Secretary