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University of Northern Iowa Graduate Council Minutes, March 9, 2017

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UNI Graduate Council Minutes #1065

Graduate Council Meeting

March 9, 2017

Present: Cutter, Dhanwada, Edmister, Igou, Ostapyuk, Pohl, and Rod-Welch.

Absent: Al-Mabuk, Beall, Berendzen, Calderon, Fontana, Isakson, Juby, Ross, Schwieger.

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

There was a motion to approve the minutes of the February 23 meeting. The motion passed.

Graduate College Reports:

Dhanwada reported on the upcoming Graduate College Events:

- **Graduate Student Symposium is on Tuesday, April 4.** The event will have 28 poster presentations from multiple disciplinary areas. Also, there are 33 oral and 7 creative performances on a variety of topics. The presentations will be concurrent. This year, there was not a need to extend the deadline too much, most of the students submitted on time. It seemed more students took the time to think about and take advantage of this unique opportunity. This year, there will be guests to speak at the program, including President Nook and an alumni panel. Everyone is encouraged to publicize this exciting event to their departmental colleagues and students.
- **The 1st Annual Graduate Student Visit Day is on Friday, March 31.** Campus tours and department visitations have been arranged for prospective students. There will a graduate student panel, and lunch at the dining center. RSVP deadline is March 22.

Pohl stated that **The Annual Graduate Faculty Meeting is on Thursday, April 27.**

The program starts at 3 p.m. on a general theme of the value of attending graduate school at a comprehensive university. Everyone is encouraged to attend. **Pohl** also reminded everyone that a special **Graduate Faculty Meeting** to discuss the Strategic Plan is on **March 21 in Rod Library, room 287.** There will be discussions on how to refine the goals and objectives of the Graduate College and how to connect it more clearly to the university strategic plan. Input from faculty across the campus is expected at the meeting. The Graduate Strategic Plan needs to be finalized by the end of the year.

Old Business:

1. **Inquiry from Provost Wohlpart concerning a stand-alone Dean for Graduate College.**

Discussion occurred on the need for a stand-alone Dean for the Graduate College. Members of the Graduate Council were sent handouts on the Graduate Council resolution that was passed on April 9, 2015. Also, a separate handout was distributed on the roles of Graduate College leadership in support of graduate education at UNI. The Council members discussed all the current responsibilities of the College Dean as well as the Associate Dean. Both **Dhanwada** and **Cutter** provided their own reflections on their current duties. A lengthy discussion occurred on how some of these responsibilities might have to be redefined if a stand-alone Dean is indeed requested. The detailed listing of the roles and responsibilities of the Dean and the Associate Dean are on file at the Graduate College office.

Dhanwada suggested some possible additional responsibilities for the stand-alone Dean position. Her suggestions included development of retention and completion initiatives for graduate students, stronger collaborations with international programs, professional development programming for graduate coordinators, stronger collaborations with Research and Sponsored Programs, and development of possible new interdisciplinary programs.

The Council members thought it would be wise to bring this whole issue up for discussion at the special graduate faculty meeting on March 21 and get faculty input. **Pohl** agreed to put together a resolution

based upon the input for Council members to vote on. It was also suggested that we could ask Provost Wohlpart if having a stand-alone Dean is still a viable option given all the budget cuts we are facing.

Meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be on March 23, at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rubina Chowdhury

Secretary