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University of Northern Iowa Graduate Council Minutes, September 12, 2019

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UNI Graduate Council Minutes #1086

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2019

Present: Amy Igou, Dale Cyphert, Amy Petersen, Radhi Al-Mabuk, Gayle Pohl, Bill Wood, Heather Jeronimo, Darcie Davis-Gage, Nicholas Schwab, Leila Rod-Welch, Jennifer Waldron, Gabriela Olivares, and Sydney Cindrich

Chair Rod-Welch called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Welcome:

Dr. Rod-Welch welcomed all council members and Dr. Jennifer Waldron (Dean) and Dr. Gabriela Olivares (Associate Dean).

Introductions and Nominations:

All members introduced themselves. One new graduate student joined this year: Sydney Cindrich (M.A. representative). Dr. Pohl was nominated as chair. Dr. Al-Mabuk was nominated as vice chair. Sydney Cindrich was nominated as secretary.

Graduate College Reports:

Dean Waldron explained that Susie will no longer be discussing professional development events at the meeting to save time. She explained that e-blasts will be sent to students regarding upcoming information so they aren't getting as many emails. Dean Waldron also gave a recap on the Welcome New Graduate Student Event and discussed enrollment numbers: 865 distance, 659 resident students. 1524 total enrollment.

Dean Waldron discussed upcoming initiatives including GARP, which will be overseen by Associate Dean Olivares as well as the graduate assistantship and allocation committee which will be chaired by Dr. Davis-Gage. The areas that will be examined include:

Summer research fellowships were also discussed. There will be a research committee meeting next week to create some priorities since the funding will be limited.

Associate Dean Olivares gave the report on the graduate curriculum committee. The committee met to discuss programs that need to be approved by the board of regents. MA in Health Education and MA in Leisure Youth and Human Services are being merged into one program.

Dr. Davis-Gage reported that she would like to do advising training across the board for graduate faculty to help alleviate responsibility from the graduate coordinators.

New Business:

The Graduate College office would like the Graduate Council to determine who the Department Graduate Faculty is in departments without a graduate program.

Dean Waldron talked about updating the graduate faculty constitution as well as suggesting that one of the working groups needs to be with the Graduate Constitution because there are several outdated pieces. The follow problems emerged in terms of associate graduate faculty status as well as nominations and appointments:

Can emeritus serve on a research project where there is only one chair and one reader?

Can doctoral students serve on a masters committee if they have associate graduate faculty status?

The constitution needs to be more inclusive

Dean Waldron also discussed how departments that don't have graduate programs have not been following the constitution. Dr. Cyphert suggested for departments to vote for a chair of that department for a graduate faculty representative.

Open Discussion:

Associate Dean Olivares and Dean Waldron had mentioned that they would like to continue to move into working groups on the off weeks to focus on an issue to create change. Dean Waldron would also like to identify a message that can be shared across the board about graduate education and what role the graduate education plays on this campus.

The graduate faculty constitution needs to be looked at in the working groups. The three working groups suggested were:

English language requirement (expand options of tests)
Forgiveness Policy (Renewal Policy)

This will help students that have struggled with school, get a clean slate and get rid of some of those grades that are hindering their GPA.

Admission Policy

There has been challenges with the admission process for international students and a few domestic students because the academic catalog says that exceptions will be provided to students who don't have an undergraduate requirement.

Dr. Cyphert mentioned that the MBA program has students from China who have credit hours towards a degree, but don't have the add-on to have it be the equivalent.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sydney Cindrich

Graduate Council Secretary