

10-10-2019

## University of Northern Iowa Graduate Council Minutes, October 10, 2019

Graduate Council, University of Northern Iowa.

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## **Graduate Council Meeting Minutes**

**October 10, 2019**

**3:30 pm in Lang 115**

**Present:** Sydney Cindrich, Jennifer Waldron, Gabriela Olivares, Amy Igou, Bill Wood, Leila Rod-Welch, Radhi Al-Mabuk, Gayle Pohl, Nicholas Schwab, Dale Cyphert, Ann Bradfield.

**Absent:** Amy Petersen, Darcie Davis-Gage, Heather Jeronimo.

### **1. Welcome**

### **2. Graduate College Reports/Announcements**

#### **a. Jennifer Waldron, Graduate College Dean.**

- i. Dean Waldron announced the go ahead for the new enrollment position, as well as the launch for the new graduate college website.
- ii. A graduate coordinator meeting will be held this week. In this meeting, they will discuss thesis, dissertation, and research projects. This will allow them to be able to share gaps in terms of the information that students are receiving or are not receiving about the process as well as have a conversation with coordinators to get students completed.
- iii. The November meeting will focus on recruitment.

#### **b. Gabriela Olivares, Associate Dean**

- i. Associate Dean Olivares announced that a summary from the graduate college curriculum committee meeting will be given at the November Graduate Council Meeting.

#### **c. Darcie Davis-Gage, Chair of Graduate Faculty**

- i. Dean Waldron spoke on behalf of Darcie Davis-Gage by sharing that the graduate assistantship allocation working group is making progress. They have started to create a list of priorities and are working to add definition or description to what priorities mean. An update of the process will be shared at the November meeting.
- ii. Associate Dean Olivares requested to designate members for the distinguished service award committee. The nominations will come in December/early January. Gayle Pohl and Radhi Al-Mabuk volunteered to be on this committee.

### **3. New Business**

#### **a. New Voting Rights for Faculty and Graduate Faculty Constitution**

- i. Dean Waldron described the voting process by saying that the voting rights at the faculty level, which were approved 2 weeks ago, extend voting rights to tenure track, renewable term, term, and instructors who have worked at least 50% of time six of the last 8 semesters. This does not necessarily influence the graduate faculty constitution.
- ii. Dean Waldron suggested having an initial conversation on whether or not to reexamine, in light of the faculty voting changes, who is designated as graduate faculty.
  1. Regular members can attend meetings, serve on elections, advise students, work on committees, and serve on thesis chair or committees.
  2. The key piece is that if faculty aren't tenure track, research and scholarship is not part of their contract so the question was posed if research and scholarship should be required for graduate faculty status
  3. Suggestions included: scholars be on that certain committee, we could make a distinction between adjunct and term, leaving somewhat open for departments to make the decision, survey different departments and voting rights to get a feeling of departments to see if faculty will want to have a discussion of graduate faculty status.

#### **b. Academic Position and the Graduate College/Programs**

- i. Dean Waldron discussed academic positioning. As academic positioning conversation starts to unfold, we need to harness resources and think strategically where graduate college and education falls into the academic position.

1. There is a 3 phase conversation that needs to be had about capacity building and how we should be providing programs and what they would look like.
    - a. Phase 1: The programmatic level. How to build capacity into our programs? Part of these conversations are going to be looking at how we have programs structured. Are we maximizing resources or maximizing content areas? How can we merge resources together to have a bigger conversation?
    - b. Phase 2: A restructuring. What that looks like is unknown at this time. This involves making some movement and shifts to that. First phase allow restructuring across university to emerge.
    - c. Phase 3: How do we put this within the culture of UNI? How to make it apart of what we do more often. Programs are outdated in terms of names and the way they are structured.
  - ii. The structure if a project management team of 12-15 people. Announcement at kickoff on how people can nominate themselves.
  - iii. Working groups come together on particular topics such as dates, other universities, our university and figure out how to build capacity within that. Working groups will create proposals that will go down the line.
  - iv. We need to have the graduate college in those communities and apart of the conversation.
  - v. More will be discussed about academic positioning at the November meeting.
  - c. **Creation of 4 new awards-outstanding GA (or grad student), outstanding international Grad Student, outstanding Grad Program Coordinator, and outstanding Grad Secretary.**
    - i. Dean Waldron and Associate Dean Olivares have been talking about creating new awards. One of the things that they are realizing is that the work people do in our graduate community is not being recognized and we have amazing coordinators and secretaries.
    - ii. Discussed opening it up to graduate students and GA's.
- 4. Adjournment.**
- a. The meeting with adjourned at 4:30
- 5. Next scheduled meeting is November 14<sup>th</sup>- 3:30 pm- Location: 115 Lang Hall**