

9-10-2020

## University of Northern Iowa Graduate Council Minutes, September 10, 2020

Graduate Council, University of Northern Iowa.

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## **Graduate Council Meeting Minutes September 10, 2020**

Present: Jennifer Waldron, Gayle Pohl, Joan Bessman Taylor, Amy Igou, Karen Tracey, Gabriela Olivares, Darcie Davis-Gage, Eran Hanke, Shoshanna Coon, Nicholas Schwab, Heather Gallivan, Amy Petersen, Arti Mann, Tabitha Decker, Natalie Ita

**I. Welcome:** Joan welcomed all the members present. She stated she is looking forward to elevating graduate education at UNI. Directly following a welcome, introductions were provided by each member.

### **II. Announcements**

- a. Please identify alternates for representation on this Council

### **III. Updates from Dean Waldron and/or Associate Dean Olivares**

- a. Dr. Olivares announced two programs from the catalog are now officially terminated: Biotech and Ecological Management. The Doctorate of Technology will be terminated in the near future (6 students who are in dissertations who will complete the program).
- b. Dean Waldron addressed the efforts made in the summer to form graduate programs in the fall and is asking what type of data is useful for the graduate council in considering where the council would like to go in the future. Dean Waldron announced the following:
  - i. Board of Regents created an advisory group to examine changes among BOR institutions..
  - ii. Academic positioning is being discussed by the project management team
  - iii. Program Vitality Committee is working to present data in various ways (e.g., the representation of students who are in continuous registration).
  - iv. Enrollment statistics were released last week with a total of 1218 graduate students (i.e., down 306 from Fall 2019). Of the down students, 292 were non-degree seeking students. It is noteworthy that we are down 21 full time international students.
  - v. In relation to COVID-19, there is a group of staff meeting regularly who are prepared to communicate as situations change.
  - vi. Lisa Steimel left the Graduate College and Diego Saavedras will be examining Graduate College efficiencies for GA/TS process.
  - vii. Rather than hosting a Welcome event, an orientation was shared online at the beginning of the semester.
  - viii. A team within the Graduate College will be working with DEI initiatives.
  - ix. Dean Waldron has suggested exploring the possibility of changing academic catalog language and GPA requirements in the overarching Graduate College.

### **IV. Updates from Summer Working groups:**

- a. Darcie Davis-Gage (Chair of the Graduate Faculty): Darcie announced she has been focusing and will continue to focus on elevating graduate studies. Her focus is to (1) Understand the purpose of graduate education within our programs while considering DEI; (2) Build connections and raise the voice of graduate education; (3) Help engage and restore graduate faculty in light of the pandemic.

b. Amy Petersen (Faculty Chair): Amy announced she will be focused on engaging faculty and building a shared governance system with graduate faculty. She addressed the many large challenges faced by higher education but recognized the faculty has been creative in problem solving. Last spring, the need to develop a graduate faculty roster was determined. An updated roster to accompany the annual roster has been created.

c. Others with updates to report? Marketing? Self-care? Program Coordination?

**VI. Comments on moving forward:**

- a. Foci of committee work: There were committees formed last year but many previous members are no longer on the council. Amy suggested the need to revisit the subcommittees from the previous year prior to the pandemic in the spring 2020 (e.g., constitution). Gayle recommended waiting on forming subcommittees from last year to see the anticipated report. Darcie recommended there should be policies in the bylaws regarding communication with the graduate faculty and coordinators. She also recommended each representative reach out to their respective departments to gauge key issues and current interests.
- b. Meeting structure/frequency
- c. Areas of growth for increased shared governance
- d. Identifying what we desire from the Dean's office as far as regular reporting, etc.

VII Other business - none to report at this time.

**Next meeting 24 September 2020.**

Meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Ita

Graduate Council Secretary