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University of Northern Iowa Graduate Council Minutes, February 11, 2021

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Graduate Council Minutes

February 11, 2021

3:30-4:30 p.m. (Zoom)

Present: Hanke, Igou, Mann, Pohl, Gallivan, Tracey, Coon, Schwab, Davis-Gage, Taylor, Decker

Ex-Officio: Waldron, Olivares

Absent: Petersen, Pratesi

1. Welcome: Grad Council Vice Chair Amy Igou
 - a. Approval of Minutes for prior meeting
 - a. Motion by Schwab, 2nd by Hanke
 - b. Motion passed
2. Graduate College Reports/Announcements:
 - a. Jennifer Waldron, Graduate College Dean
 - i. Academic calendar proposals for 2022 year will include winter term. Waiting for approval by BOR
 - ii. Legislature is in session. Many proposed bills influencing higher education. Board of Regents and Government Relation officials working hard behind the scenes.
 - b. Gabriela Olivares, Associate Dean
 - i. GCCC – need Grad Council member for fall semester
 1. Dr. Coon already serving
 2. 3 year term
 - ii. Historically, 2 Grad Council members serve as the university-at-large position
 - c. Darcie Davis-Gage, Chair of Graduate Faculty
 - i. Working on programming
 1. Jonathan in CETL on workshop on using experiential, expressive arts in teaching
 2. The storytelling groups – more information coming out.
3. New Business
 1. Discussion of Interpreting Admission/Funding Criteria: 3.0 GPA (use 2.95-3.0 as range for admission and 1st semester funding)
 - a. Chair Taylor described interpretation
 - b. Question: @ number of students this impacts, and the slippery slope of interpretation of minimum GPA. If this is used for admission, why not suspension/probation and future funding decisions. – Council Coon
 - c. Currently 2 coordinators have contacted me about 4 students who have 2.97, 2.98, and 2.99 GPAs. 2 are in post –sec affairs and students will go to IA State (where they will receive funding) if they don't receive funding here. Often times these situations involve Historically Underrepresented students– Dean Waldron
 - i. Experiences from own program that this is often the case – Faculty Chair Davis-Gage

- d. If use language to round up to 3.0, then everything should round up to 3.0 – Council Coon
 - e. Shouldn't this be the exception rather than the rule – rigor is important, better to be strong up front, we are being generous, be tough up front don't want to be too easy. – Council Pohl
 - f. how many students are not applying because of 3.0. How many people never apply? – Council Coon
 - g. Do we want someone with a 2.7? – Council Pohl
 - h. Can we change catalog language – what is process? – Chair Davis-Gage
 - i. Grad Council can vote today, but I am uncomfortable making a change without speaking to grad faculty – Dean Waldron
 - ii. Not comfortable with changing language without faculty input – Council Pohl
 - i. Impact of this influences HU students, BIPOC students, 1st-generation students and so advocating for this interpretation - GPA for admission & 1st semester funding, GPA for keeping good standing in program; need to look at other universities and talk with constituents before making Academic Catalog change – Assoc. Dean Olivares,
 - j. I move that the Dean has flexibility for unconditional admission and funding admission at 2.95 for first semester graduate students – Council Coon
 - i. Second by Chair Davis-Gage -
 - ii. Motion passes unanimously
4. Involvement in the Provost Search
- a. I attended listening session and it was a small group – put forward ideas around grad education – Chair Taylor
 - b. Need to have talking points that keep coming up – growth of graduate education
 - c. I attended other one and made big impact with graduate education – Council Pohl
 - d. Need to be prepared when candidates interview – Chair Davis-Gage
5. Update on Academic Positioning
- a. Chair Davis-Gage, as PMT Member provided update and reminder of last listening and engagement session on Friday
6. Consideration of Combined Degree programs (see document)
- a. Overview of combined degree program provided and the need to start making decisions to allow this through changes to academic catalog. MATR program wants to propose. Main point of discussion today is on # shared credit of graduate credit with the undergraduate degree. Options are 9 credit regardless of length of Masters degree, or 9/12 credit depending on the length of program - Dean Waldron
 - b. The other option is if Grad Council is comfortable with this. I am uncomfortable with sharing 9 credit hours with undergrad for a 30 credited hour degree program. Concern saying 10 semesters because the MATR program uses summers.- Council Coon
 - c. Yes. That is something the GCCC is going to have to consider – whether summers should be a required part of an on-campus program. – Dean Waldron
 - d. Not a problem with it. Medical schools do it all the time – Council Coon
 - e. If people come in with 30 credits, they can graduate in 4 years with the combined degree programs – Council Pohl
 - f. Chair Taylor, we are at 4:30. Would you like to conclude this meeting? – Dean Waldron
 - g. Everyone should go back to faculty to have a discussion and share comments with Chair Taylor or Vice Chair Igou prior to the next meeting

- h. Continue this as old business
 - i. Discuss book group proposal next meeting
7. Adjournment at 4:32

Next scheduled meeting: Thursday, March 11, 2021