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University of Northern Iowa Graduate Council Minutes, February 25, 2021

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Graduate Council Minutes
February 25, 2021
3:30-4:30 p.m. (Zoom)

Present: Igou, Mann, Tracey, Coon, Schwab, Davis-Gage, Taylor, Decker, Petersen

Ex-Officio: Waldron, Olivares

Absent: Gallivan, Pratesi, Pohl

a. Welcome: Grad Council Chair - Joan Bessman Taylor
   a. No agenda set; however, conversation will focus on old business
   b. Minutes from prior meeting – not sent, will be approved at the next Grad Council meeting

b. 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. HLC
      iii. Funding Allocations to department sent
   b. Gabriela Olivares, Associate Dean
      i. Awards committee
         1. Waiting for Lubker award to be determined
         2. Names will be announced in future
         3. Thank you to all committee members
      ii. Historically, 2 Grad Council members serve as the university-at-large position
   c. Darcie Davis-Gage, Chair of Graduate Faculty
      i. Jonathan – CETL, presentation “tray of resistance” focus on grad faculty
         ii. Still working out the date
      iii. Provost search
         iv. Not much mentioned about graduate education
         v. Need to make sure voices are heard move forward

c. Old Business
   a. Combined degree programs
      i. No taking a vote today, but will be moving. Faculty initiative with one department who wants to move forward with this. – (Taylor)
      ii. C&I coordinators – that sounds like a good idea – questions about process – what happens when you start it and don’t finish it - (Taylor)
      iii. Feedback: generally in favor (Pohl via email)
         i. how does it get processed
         ii. application process, when apply for it, GAs or will they be awarded, will GAs be reserved for 2 year students,
      iv. Shared it with programs with grad program, and then more broadly (Coon)
         i. general endorsement, as long as it is a trend if higher ed
ii. Confusion – current policy allows for grad credit as senior, but those 12 credits don’t double count
   1. Should credit double count for all students, regardless of combined degree option?
iii. don’t want policy to be so restrictive that it isn’t useful
   1. Student might be wanting double count without a combined degree
v. start by focusing on the programs that want to do it and see what happens – don’t want to give the impression that you can double count credit
   (Davis-Gage)
   i. MATR has already thought this through
   ii. I would rather err on specific programs to the 3-2
   iii. equity options does not mean equal
vi. we have to change a major policy at university; won’t be long before some other student gets to double count (Coon)
vii. centering on the path we need to open, and then determine if we need to look at and then widen the approach. Need to keep mind open (Olivares)
viii. shorter programs should not lead to combined degree programs (Coon)
ix. thinking appropriate to revise such policy language (Petersen)
   i. MATRs proposal is rigorous and makes senses
   ii. grad education – how move forward.
   iii. may create additional spaces for grad education on campus.
x. MATR, good model, thoughtfulness with curriculum, helped me think about other pitfalls; (Davis-Gage)
   i. need to think about what to do – very important piece is to be deliberative.
   ii. We are on the trail end of opening up combined degree programs – we need to do it and do it well.
xi. generally supportive; sense more positive than negatives; one size fits all is not where we need to go – be difficult (Schwab)
xii. not a chance to discuss; meeting on the 3rd (Mann)
xiii. everything was positive; talked with people informally (Tracey)
b. Next step
   i. Send email for feedback for grad coordinators and grad dept heads (Taylor)

Meeting adjourned @4:31